

## Egypt-Israel crisis over plans for Palestinian autonomy

Less than a week before normal relations are due to begin between Israel and Egypt, rigid rejection by both sides of each other's proposals on Palestinian autonomy has precipitated a crisis by bringing the

peace process to an abrupt stop. Saying progress had been set back at least six months, Israel has also refused to cede any powers over Jerusalem, which had been united "through the ages".

### Action by US envoy likely

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, January 15

Public disagreements over the sensitive issue of autonomy for the 1,000,000 Arabs living on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip have plunged Israeli-Egyptian relations into their most serious crisis since the signing of the Camp David agreement last year.

Less than a week before the scheduled start of normal relations between the two governments, the flat rejection by both sides of each other's proposals for the structure and powers of the Palestinian Authority Council has left the key aspect of the peace process at an impasse.

Over the past 48 hours, bitter accusations have been exchanged between senior ministers in Jerusalem and Cairo. These have succeeded in souring even the limited area of accord reached by President Sadat of Egypt and Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, during their recent unsuccessful summit meeting in Aswan.

Although the substantive differences between the two sides are not new, the formal and uncompromising expression of them has added to the growing belief that rapid American intervention will be necessary to maintain progress towards peace. This could be forthcom-

ing when Mr Sol Linowitz, President Carter's special envoy, returns to the area in a week.

It is understood that on Sunday, the full Israeli Cabinet will discuss in detail the Egyptian rejection of Israel's formula for the powers of the proposed autonomy council, which it wants strictly limited to administration. Ministers will also be told why the Israeli delegation formally rejected Egypt's suggestion that the council be given both judicial and legislative powers.

According to Dr Yosef Burg, the chief Israeli negotiator, the Egyptian plan has set back the cumbersome autonomy negotiations "at least six months, if not more". As well as contesting Egypt's model for the council's powers, the suggestion that it should have between 80 and 100 members, Israel has also dismissed the idea that the council should take in Jerusalem.

On returning from this week's abortive working session in Cairo, Dr Burg told Israeli television viewers: "It is unthinkable that we would carve off a portion of our capital, which despite different foreign rulers through the ages was always united. After all, Jerusalem is never mentioned in the Koran, but the Bible has no fewer than 663 references to it."

Public anger has also been expressed by Mr Begin who, after meeting Dr Burg today, added his voice to those of many senior officials who have emphasized that Israel refuses to bow to American pressure to soften its stand on the autonomy issue in order to find a quick solution to the Palestinian problem.

Earlier Mr Begin accused Egypt of trying to distort the Camp David agreement by claiming that it stated that the autonomy council should have legislative and judicial powers. "I have heard this for the past seven or eight months, and I am prepared to go over the written documents and prove that there is no mention of such prerogatives," he said.

In Cairo, Mr Mustapha Khalil, the Egyptian Prime Minister, disclosed that his Government had approved a slowing in the pace towards normal economic and cultural relations with Israel.

He also explained that because the present Israeli military government in the occupied territories wielded executive, legislative and judicial powers, the Egyptian negotiators were insisting that these should all be transferred to the proposed Palestinian authority.

## Carrington fear that Kabul unrest may spread

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

The Soviet threat has not ended with the invasion of Afghanistan, Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, said last night on returning to London from his Asian tour.

"The danger point is to have either the Soviet Union or a puppet of the Soviet Union in an area of such strategic importance in the middle of the Muslim world, capable of fomenting unrest and subversion in that area," he said.

During the 10-day tour—which covered Turkey, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and India—foreign leaders impressed upon Lord Carrington that the Arab-Israeli dispute and suspicion of American motives in it, were hindering Western efforts to mobilize opinion against the Soviet intervention.

Accordingly, the Middle East is likely to be the next area of attention for British diplomacy, after Lord Carrington has had further consultations with NATO allies on ways of keeping pressure on the Soviet Union in the aftermath of the invasion.

In spite of the different attitudes of EEC member states on the Palestinian question, the European Community has been moving closer to a common position on the role of the Palestine Liberation Organization in recent months.

The British view is that no settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute is possible without the PLO.

So far as reaction to Afghanistan is concerned, the two most hopeful developments, Lord Carrington said, were the decisive vote by the non-aligned nations at the United Nations against the Soviet action, and the coming conference of Islamic countries in Pakistan later this month.

Responses to the Russian invasion are to be discussed at the conference.

## Gold dealers predict \$1,000 an ounce as stampede continues

By Caroline Atkinson

The apparently unstoppable rush into gold sent the metal soaring to record heights again yesterday. It closed at \$835 an ounce in London, with some dealers predicting a price of \$1,000 in the near future.

Later, the New York price closed at \$812, \$10 up on the previous high.

Yesterday's leap of \$75 an ounce was the biggest in London. Dealers reported a panic on the markets as they tried to cope with a stampede of would-be investors.

Thousands of new buyers have been drawn into the gold markets because of the publicity, and this has added a twist to the spiral of price rises, set off initially by East-West tension over Iran and Afghanistan.

Fears of political instability still exist—one dealer commented that the market was now gripped by a "war psychosis". Gold is much more attractive in times of political instability than any paper money.

However, it seems possible that relaxation of the present tension between the United States and the Soviet Union could suddenly halt the gold rush. Once small buyers come to a market, it is usually the time to sell.

But investors who thought that time had come on Thursday, when the price dipped sharply in New York before leaping ahead again, had their fingers badly burned.

**Price doubled in six weeks**  
Gold coins have also leapt in price. Kruggerands were trading at £367.577 yesterday in London, while new sovereigns rose to £91.75-96.75.

The price of gold has now doubled in just over six weeks, rising by \$308.5 an ounce (58 per cent) since the beginning of this year.

All the old rules about the

relation between the gold and currency markets have been broken in the last few weeks. The foreign exchange markets have remained quiet, while the bullion market has taken off. Yesterday was no exception.

The dollar was slightly weaker against some European currencies but ended unchanged against a basket of currencies. The pound has been the fastest-moving currency this year, rising to its highest levels against a basket of currencies since mid-summer. Yesterday it recovered from a dip on Thursday to close at \$2.2855, a rise of 1 cent. Its trade-weighted index rose by 0.3 points to close at 71.9 per cent of its end-1971 value.

### No threat to currency

Investors are no longer switching into gold because of fears of instability. Large scale investors of funds, such as the Opec countries, may be wary of putting much money into such a volatile market.

Western governments, in particular the United States, are not happy either, although they have decided against taking any action because the price leap does not appear to be threatening the world's currency markets. However they do not welcome the big benefit to the world's two major gold producers, South Africa and the Soviet Union.

Gold shares are still lagging behind the metal price, though demand for good quality mines such as Buffelsfontein or Western Holdings is strong.

Some of the edge has been taken off the speculative stocks such as Durban Deep Levels or East Rand Proprietary by the realization that huge investment will be needed for these mines to take full advantage of the longer lives higher gold prices give them.

## Too much glitter in the Garden gold rush

By Philip Robinson

That nasty feeling of being five from the front of a queue when the "closed" sign goes up over the counter could well face the "forty-niners" of Hatton Garden.

For more than two weeks the pioneers of Britain's first gold rush have wrapped up in winter clothes cluttered grandfather's cigarette case and Aunt Maud's ring and lined the streets of the world famous jewelry centre.

At first it was the odd trickle, one or two enterprising people sorting out the attic for glistening heirlooms. Now it is everyone who wants to turn metal into money and reverse tradition for the first time in their lives—selling, rather than buying from, gold merchants.

It has all been too much for Johnson Matthey, one of Britain's largest gold refiners. They have drafted in extra staff who are taking several thousand ounces of gold and silver. Their Hatton Garden telephone is constantly engaged.

The selling rush has been so great that in the past two weeks Matthey's have been reviewing their position twice a day—not in case there are wide fluctuations in the price, but because their refining factory cannot process and store the gold and silver fast enough.

"We just haven't got the space to keep all the metal we are being given," they say.

And if it keeps coming in at the rate it has for the past fortnight, we may have to shut the doors.

"That is not to say that we would shut the supply at 24 hours' notice because if we did you could triple the amount of people waiting to get in, but you don't review things twice a day unless you intend taking a decision at some time."

For security reasons, the group are phasing down any notion of a sharp cut off.

"It is already causing another sort of headache. Every criminal in London knows that anyone in a queue up here has valuables," Johnson Matthey's said.

In fact, more than one or two of them could well be lining up with the rest. The gold rush has been a dream for every fence in London. Faced with the tiny payment that any "fencing" would yield through usual channels, the price stolen goods fetch in "The Garden" would be much more attractive.

The police will make no official comment but privately say they are well aware of the problem.

Jewellery is one of the hardest stolen items to get rid of. It is, of course, an impossible situation to check. Is the man in the brown mackintosh and trilby really Mr Winterbottom of Croydon?

Certainly, the Hatton Garden houses have no time to check. They say they have to accept things in good faith.

No fool would go in with a great haul, but the length of the queues might indicate that more than a passing interest was being paid by the criminal fraternity. In this sort of rush, there is no such thing as a "fool's gold".

Silver sale, page 2  
Queueing up, page 18



Signor Claudio Abbado: Second resignation.

## La Scala hits a sour low note

From Bernard DeGiovanni of Agence France-Presse Milan, Jan 15

La Scala, Milan, long considered a mirror of Italian cultural life, is on the brink of collapse. Some of its most famous names are leaving.

Signor Claudio Abbado, the opera house's celebrated conductor, has resigned for the second time in four months. He resigned as musical director last September.

"I am leaving next April at the end of my contract. For several years La Scala has been in an absurd situation for lack of money and competent personnel. Few people are willing to continue working there," he said after his resignation today.

The crisis at La Scala today is in sharp contrast to last year when the opera house planned a 13-month programme, with an opera a month, to celebrate its bicentenary.

Its plans had never been so ambitious, or diverse: tours of the United States (for 1979) to Paris and Berlin (1980) and Japan (1981). The first was cancelled for lack of money; the rest appear threatened.

Money is La Scala's problem. Its annual receipts of 3,000m lire (£1,642,000) and public financing of 13,000m lire (£7,115,000) are not enough to keep the opera house solvent.

The Italian Parliament, session after session, has failed to take up a Bill calling for reform of theatre funding. So La Scala has turned towards the private sector. One proposal was that a household appliance manufacturer could finance several performances, and they gave the purists ulcers.

It will not be easy to replace Signor Abbado. The eastern he enjoys abroad has permitted La Scala to attract the most renowned of performers.

Last December, when the 1979-80 season was launched with the opera *Foro Gaudens*, Signor Abbado alone escaped the catcalls of the audience and the attacks of the critics.

The first year of La Scala's third century is off to a chaotic start. Signor Francesco Siciliani, Signor Abbado's successor as musical director, is unavailable until next spring due to previous commitments with Rome's Saint Cecilia Academy. La Scala will therefore be without a permanent musical director for six months.

Prevail successor: Signor Abbado, aged 46, was appointed principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, in 1968. He succeeded Mr André Previn, in September last year.

He conducted the LSO for the first time as its principal conductor in October.

## Steel families facing hardship at Corby

From David Nicholson-Lord Corby

Steel strike organisers at Corby (Northamptonshire) are facing growing discontent from members over the lack of strike pay and hardship payments.

Members of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation in the town are suffering "dire" financial hardship, organisers say. Apart from a week's tax rebate, many strikers have had no income. They were last paid on December 21.

Mr Thomas Barrowman, the strike committee's welfare officer, said: "This week everybody is living on the scraps from the pantry, tins of peas or condensed milk. Next week they will not have even that."

He added: "As union representatives are also trying to organise considerable anger against the union. We are being kicked to death on this. The union has got to review the situation on strike pay and hardship payments and make financial allowances."

The problem is acute in Corby because of the town's almost total dependence on steel. Of some 8,000 members on strike, Mr Barrowman estimated that 2,000 were single men, or married couples without dependants, who are not receiving supplementary benefit. Some 300 to 400 in that category are on the committee's hardship register.

The union's hardship fund at Corby, according to Mr Barrowman, amounts to £200, most of it contributed by other unions, which are themselves on strike. Morale was raised with the donation of £500 of groceries by a local community centre.

Steel unions are also represented on the Labour-dominated council leaders of which met the strike committee and gave an assurance that strikers would not be evicted from council houses without personal circumstances being taken into account.

Union funds at Corby have

been used to finance picketing, which according to Mr Michael Skelton, the strike committee coordinator, has cost less than £1,500.

Hardship fund: A union official in London said there appeared to be few cases of hardship but if funds ran out locally the union could request them from central funds (our Labour Staff writes). All the union's full-time officials are not drawing their salaries during the strike and this money is going into the hardship fund.

The confederation's 110,000 members pay union subscriptions of up to 45p a week and with assets of £11m, the union is confident that it can sustain a long strike if necessary.

Union leaders are to meet government ministers this morning, the seventeenth day of the strike, to argue their case and ask for more government funds for British Steel.

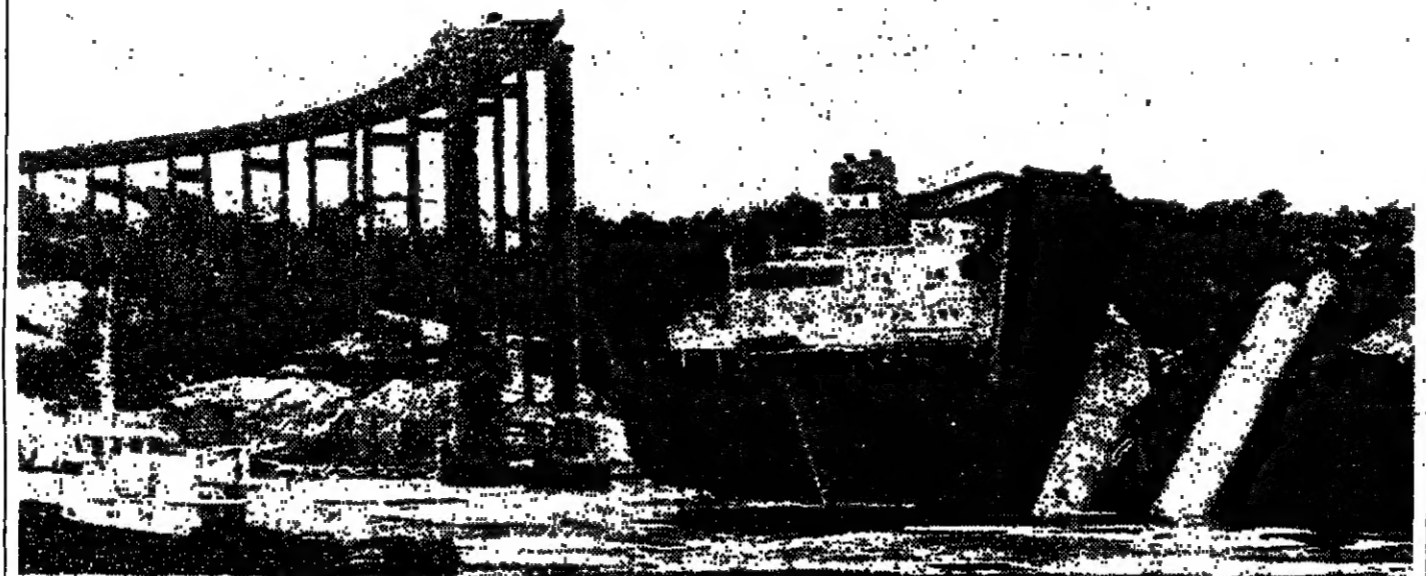
Mr William Sims, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, and Mr Hector Smith, leader of the National Union of Blastfurnacemen, will meet Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, and Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment.

Mr Robert Scholey, the British Steel Corporation chief executive, said yesterday he would prefer that the Government stay out of the strike (our Cardiff Correspondent writes).

"The best reason could be of direct dealings between ourselves and the unions on the basis that two is company and three is not," he said at Cardiff Airport after a meeting with BSC's Welsh division directors.

**Steel flown in**

Mr Roy Evans, ISTE assistant general secretary, said that the union had discovered a consignment of welded stainless steel bars had been flown to Heathrow Airport, London, this week. That appeared to be a one-off consignment, he said.



Bridge collapse: Eight people are feared dead after a ship destroyed one of Sweden's longest road bridges early yesterday. The Liberian registered Star Clipper, in thick fog, struck one end of the arch supporting the 500-yard long Almö bridge 30 miles north of Göteborg. It was an hour before police were able to close the approaches to the bridge.

By nightfall yesterday divers had found no vehicles or bodies, but Norwegian sailors aboard the ship said that six cars and two lorries had fallen with the bridge into the 130ft deep water. Eight people have been reported missing.

The bridge connected the island of Tjörn with the mainland. About 12,000 trips daily were made across the bridge and the nearest detour is 60 miles long.

## 'Militant' disclosures are diversionary tactic, Labour left-winger says

By Michael Hatfield Political Reporter

The unearthing of Militant documents was not an accident but a diversionary tactic meant to distract attention from the real task facing the Labour Party, Mr Michael Meacher, left wing Labour MP for Oldham, West, and chairman of the Labour coordinating committee, said last night.

"That task was to present a plausible and real alternative to the escalating de-industrialisation of this country, an alternative to the ruthless application of monetarism and the reassertion of class politics, he told a Fabian Society meeting in Lancaster.

Turning the focus on Militant had a triple role, he said. It was an alibi for those leaders who wished to discredit forces now building up within the Labour movement to demand alternatives to those policies of consensus which had been tried and had signally failed.

"By giving the impression that an ideology from traditional economic policies is somehow tainted with this brush of sectarianism, or even worse, is a cancer in our midst," the exponents of consensus, however, exploded it might be, seek to derail discussion of non-militant, democratic, radical policies before it is even under way," he said.

There was also another purpose. The majority of people on the left in no way agreed with Militant dogma.

Minister intervenes: Mr Norman St John-Stevas, Leader of the House of Commons, last night challenged Mr James Callaghan, leader of the Opposition, to publish the Underhill Report on alleged Trotskyite penetration into the Labour Party and to say what he was going to do to end that influence.

"Concern about the influence of Trotskyist subversives and revolutionaries in the Labour Party should extend far beyond the confines of that party," Mr St John-Stevas said.

## Sir Cecil Beaton dies at 76

Sir Cecil Beaton, the photographer, who was renowned for his portraits of the famous, died yesterday morning at his home, Reddish House, Broad Chalke, near Salisbury, Wiltshire. He was 76 last Monday.

Sir Cecil's brilliant career as a writer, painter and photographer spanned more than half a century and ended only when he suffered a stroke in 1975. He was best known for his portraits of royalty and film personalities.

He was always fascinated by the theatre but it was not until 1934 that he became involved, when C. B. Cochran, the impresario, invited him to design costumes for the revue *Streamline*.

His design for the film *Gigi* won him an Oscar in 1959, but his greatest success in design came in 1965 when he won an Oscar for his sets in the film *My Fair Lady*.

In 1960 he decorated the Royal Opera House, using 25,000 pink carnations and a mass of maidenhair fern, for a gala ballet performance which the Queen and President de Gaulle attended. He wrote the book, mainly dealing with his own past.

He remained a bachelor all his life. He was 40 when he fell in love for the first time after meeting Greta Garbo. He proposed to her but was rejected. Sir Cecil was knighted in 1972, having been made CBE in 1957.

Lord Lichfield, the photographer, said: "I was a great admirer of him as a photographer, diarist, designer and his other talents. I wish I could be even a quarter as good at any one of those."

Lord Snowdon said: "He gave possibly the greatest contribution to photography over the past 50 years. All in all he was a great artist."

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## Drop in inflation rate may be only temporary

Inflation dropped slightly last month, but the improvement will almost certainly prove temporary. In December, the rate of inflation stood at 17.2 per cent, compared with 17.4 per cent in November. Higher mortgages and higher rail fares will boost the official figures released yesterday. Other official figures released yesterday showed that British industry stagnated last year, despite an increase in consumer demand.

## Rhodesia emergency law renewed

Lord Soames has renewed Southern Rhodesia's controversial state of emergency for another six months. The Governor believes the level of lawlessness is such in the country that the emergency law is still needed to deal flexibly with the situation. A British officer has been predicted that unless the guerrillas are trained and resettled, they will become a disruptive force.

## Mr Steel says Liberals are the centre party

The Conservative and Labour parties had used artificial majorities to run and ruin Britain for 30 years, Mr David Steel, Liberal Party leader, said defining the terms left, right and centre. He said he thought he was already the leader of a centre party.

### Basque MP boycott

The largest Basque political party has withdrawn its 16 representatives from the Madrid parliament in order to exert pressure on the Government for a faster transition of power to the Basque regional authority.

### Coggan plea for unity

Dr Donald Coggan made a plea for continued moves towards church unity, despite recent setbacks, at his final press conference as Archbishop of Canterbury.

## Yugoslavia stands firm on neutrality

As President Tito's health continued to deteriorate, Yugoslavia voiced its determination to avoid becoming involved in big power rivalry over its independence. A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Belgrade said the country "never received and does not need anybody's patronage".

No cover-up: Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, said allegations of police corruption or violence would be thoroughly investigated.

Gas prices: Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, defends the sharp rise in charges.

Johannesburg: Two judges who defied Government resign.

New York: Mayor plans higher taxes and reduced services.

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## We'll be needed in the 1980s too



Vast human tragedies in Africa and south-east Asia are still among our major concerns—and a purely natural disaster calling for international aid occurs on average every 23 days. Throughout the 1970s the Red Cross was heavily involved in world-wide relief work. The 1980s will certainly make similar demands.

People all over the world were grateful for the wonderfully generous public response to our Relief Appeals during the 70s. We hope and believe that we can rely on your support in the future. Only with the help of your donations can we take help to those who need it.

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The British Red Cross Society, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, London, SW1X 7EJ.

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## HOME NEWS

## £80 minimum wage for nursing staff demanded by union

By David Felton  
Labour Reporter

A 60 per cent pay claim for 490,000 nurses has been drawn up by the main health service union to give the lowest paid nursing staff a minimum wage of £80 a week.

The claim will be presented by the Confederation of Health Service Employees at a meeting of the staff side of the nurses' negotiating body in the hope that the other unions will agree. If there is agreement at the meeting on Tuesday the claim will be submitted to the employers.

The confederation said yesterday that the nursing auxiliaries and assistants receive nothing from the Clegg comparability commission, which two weeks ago gave an average award of 19.6 per cent to nurses.

Mr David Williams, the union's assistant general secretary, said: "Nursing auxiliaries and assistants play an important

role as part of the nursing care team, but Clegg did not give them a halfpenny. Widespread discontent is turning to resentment."

The confederation, which has 130,000 members, will have to persuade the Royal College of Nursing, the College of Midwives, three other unions and several professional bodies which make up the staff side of the validity of the 60 per cent claim.

Other aspects of the claim are for a reduced working week from April and indexing of future pay settlements. Mr Williams said that the police and firemen had indexation and "we think people will agree that nurses are entitled to this special treatment".

Pay negotiations between the Department of Health and unions representing 250,000 hospital ancillary staff were adjourned last night. The two sides will meet again on Monday.

## Talks soon on water men's pay

By Our Labour Staff

Talks on water workers' pay are likely to be resumed soon, after the unions' threat of a national strike unless the employers agree immediately to discuss their claim.

The National Water Council said last night that they had not heard officially of the unions' position but it was unlikely that negotiations would be resumed after a meeting of the employers' side early next week.

An official said the discussion would be on the unions' claim that the 33,000 water workers are paid on average £10 a week less than employees in the gas and electricity industries.

The unions are insisting that the employers honour a commitment to pay the differential, established by a working party of unions and management.

An agreement by the employers to negotiate on comparability would avert early industrial action but the question remains whether they can increase their 13 per cent offer enough to satisfy the unions.

The workers are also claiming a £15-a-week increase on basic rates to take the minimum to £75 a week, and improved holidays and a shorter working week. When the employers made their offer last month they said they could not afford any more.

## Mr Howell defends gas prices

By Our Political Reporter

The Conservative Party, clearly concerned at the bad reception of the increase in gas prices, yesterday published a statement made by Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, on Thursday night to a private meeting of the Tory backbench energy committee.

Mr Howell told the committee that the Government was allowing gas prices to rise to prevent natural gas from being used too quickly, leading to a shortage and even rationing.

Thousands of people and companies who wanted gas were not getting it. And the new gas needed from the North Sea to meet the demand would cost five or six times as much as formerly, Mr Howell said.

The British Gas Corporation was making a huge profit now because it was still buying some gas very cheaply. But much of that profit would be needed for new pipelines and new pipelines were needed to meet growing demand. Any remaining profit would go to the Exchequer and be used to reduce cuts in public expenditure in other areas.

The Government was slowing the rate at which prices would rise in a free market. If the market price was entirely free, gas prices would move even higher and faster because the oil price to which they were linked had doubled in a year.

## Bomb brings death penalty call

By Hugh Noves  
Parliamentary Correspondent Westminster

The bomb explosion on a crowded Belfast commuter train on Thursday evening brought demands from Tory MPs in the Commons yesterday for a return of the death penalty for acts of terrorism, sterner methods of interrogation and a system of selective detention on both sides of the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic.

Mr Winston Churchill, Conservative member for Stratford, called for the death penalty for acts of terrorism, saying that an overwhelming number of people in Britain were demand-

ing a more effective deterrent. Mr Atkins said that operations by the security forces were not entirely reactive and they had recently gained significant successes.

Explosion "premature": Detectives in Northern Ireland said the fire bomb that killed three people on a Belfast-bound train at Derry on Thursday evening went off prematurely. (Christopher Thomas writes from Belfast.)

They believe the device was being taken by Provisional IRA members to Belfast Central station, where it would have been planted.

A man injured in the explosion was being guarded by police in hospital last night. Two of those killed by the bomb were Mr Abayomi Olorunda, aged 30, an accountant, who was a native of Lagos,

Nigeria, but had lived in the province for 14 years and was married with three children; and Mark Stewart Cochrane, aged 17, a schoolboy, who was due to leave the train at his home station of Fingahy, on the outskirts of Belfast.

The third person killed, who might have been connected with the explosion was so badly burnt that there was conflicting evidence last night on whether the body was that of a man or woman.

It was understood, however, that the police had identified it as that of a man, but they would not give his name.

Mr John Hermon, Chief Constable of Northern Ireland, said that the Provisional IRA stood indicted before the world as a terrorist organisation of murderers. They had once again shown that they had nothing to offer but death and misery.

## US team hired for lakes inquiry

From Our Correspondent Whitehaven

An American shorthand expert completed a journey of more than 3,000 miles yesterday in answer to an appeal from an official at the two lakes inquiry at Whitehaven, Cumbria.

When Mrs Kathleen Carden, aged 30, arrived at the inquiry British Nuclear Fuels defended its decision to spend £16,000 on hiring an American agency to hire a full transcript of the hearing.

The company said that it had discovered only last week that there were no plans to have stenographers at the inquiry. It was very important that a transcript should be made available, but it was unable to get a British company who would cover the entire inquiry.

"Had we been able to get a British firm we would have used it. As it is, American rates are very competitive and it is costing us about the same as a British firm," British Nuclear Fuels said.

Mrs Carden, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, will be joined by three other women before day.

Meanwhile, it was disclosed at the inquiry that up to ten megallitres of water a day was leaking from the weir at Ennerdale. Mr Christopher Hordern, QC, representing the Lake District Special Planning Board, which is objecting to proposals by British Nuclear Fuels and the North West Water Authority to raise the levels of West Water and Ennerdale, said that if repairs were carried out the water could be saved, and it would be sufficient to meet the requirements of British Nuclear Fuels.

Mr Bryan Oldfield, the authority's director of resource planning, agreed that the authority knew about the leak, but said it would take much more than a few minor repairs to stop it.

## In brief

## Weathercock trio win appeal

Lieutenant Christopher Horst, of the Royal Tank Regiment, Charles Brown, a Manchester University student of Elmfield Avenue, York, and Paul Widdicombe, of the Old Village, Huntingdon, York, all aged 21, had their convictions by magistrates quashed when they appeared before Judge Hurwitz at York Crown Court yesterday.

The three had been convicted of stealing a weathercock from the top of a 100ft church tower last September after a drinking session. The judge ordered that their costs should be paid out of public funds.

## Review pledged on baby's death

Social service officials last night replied to mounting concern over the death of Malcolm Page, aged 13 months, who was found lying in his freezing bedroom nearly a year ago.

Mrs Joan Martin, chairman of Essex County Council's social services committee, denied that there had been any complacency.

It was always the intention to look at the case again, and we shall be looking to see what lessons there are to be learnt," she said.

## Council opposes car ban on ancient track

Wiltshire County Council yesterday gave its support to motorists and motor cyclists in their fight against an order sought by the County-side Commission banning all but farm traffic from Ridge Way, the ancient track across the county to the Thames.

## School strike call

More than 2,000 teachers have been asked to strike for half a day on Wednesday in protest at the suspension of Mrs Eileen Crosbie for refusing to supervise her nursery unit after a reduction of full time helpers from two to one at the Robert Mellore primary school in Arnold, Nottingham.

## Open verdict

An open verdict was recorded at an inquest at Westminster last night on Richard Harrison, aged 25, an economics graduate from Lamorna, near Penzance, whose body was found in the sea off the Algarve coast, Portugal, in October, 1977.

## IRA prison attack

Five prison officers were injured at Wakefield jail last week when IRA terrorists assaulted them with an iron bar and a hammer in protest against the transfer of other IRA prisoners, it was disclosed yesterday.

## Missing chemical

Nearly 300 grams of sodium metal, which could cause a serious explosion, was reported missing yesterday from Beacon Comprehensive School, Crowborough, East Sussex.

## Workforce halved

A hundred and forty workers, half the work force, are to be made redundant at GKN Sapey Automotive Plant, in Cable Street, Wolverhampton, which makes mining and tractor equipment.

## Back pain grant

The Back Pain Association has been offered a £12,000 grant for this year to help to defray expenses, the Commons was told yesterday. Last year the voluntary organization received only £7,000.

## PARLIAMENT, Jan 18, 1980

## Government policies no threat to Manchester-minister

House of Commons

The people of Manchester had voted for a Labour government but had been afflicted with the present Conservative administration, Mr Gerald Kaufman, an Opposition spokesman on the environment (Manchester, Ardwick, Lab), said when he moved a motion deploring the harmful effects of Conservative policies on the city and surrounding area.

Greater Manchester Council was Tory controlled as well, he said, and that added to the burdens.

Under the Tories, 1,417 redundancies had been notified for the city of Manchester and 7,983 for the county. Many of these had been brought about by the record 17 per cent minimum lending rate which was particularly damaging to small businesses.

The Conservatives had also removed nearly all the industrial incentives given to Manchester when the 1972 Conservative government itself gave intermediate area status.

Two Manchester schemes, he stressed, had been held over in Brussels. If the schemes were lost this would be a direct consequence of the British Government's policy in denying Manchester assisted area status.

Manchester was losing regional selective assistance, regional development grants, assistance from the European Regional Development Fund and loans from the European Investment Bank.

Greater Manchester Council was contemplating placing a new computer order not with the Manchester-based and British-owned ICL but with American-owned IBM.

The Government's policy towards the National Enterprise Board was a serious blow to industrial life. Taxpayers' money totalling £71m had helped ICL to secure the largest and most profitable computer company that was not American.

But now the taxpayers' shareholding was being sold off for £38m. The taxpayers had been cheated on their investment and the workers at ICL had been cheated.

Manchester City Council proudly possessed the best house building record in the country and between the beginning of October and September of last year it had started 9,285 homes. The future housing record was now being threatened by public expenditure cuts.

The Government were gravely mistaken in thinking that private landlords were waiting to improve their houses if only they could get more money from rents. One group of landlords in Manchester was a gang of crooks and ought to be in jail covering up their crimes of "Nasty" and "Nasty".

The name was Halperns. They also ran a most disgraceful hire purchase mortgage scheme which was a serious threat to the City.

Mr Winston Churchill (Stratford, C) said one did not have to walk far out of the centre to tell that for all but four years since the war Manchester had had a Labour controlled council.

The record of the housing department was appalling. Last year the council had spent more than £3m. The charge to the rates on the housing revenue account had increased 50-fold since 1971.

Mr Alfred Morris (Manchester, Wythenshawe, Lab) said that the Labour councilors of Manchester rejected the Government's unprincipled attempt to throw the burden of economic recovery onto the weakest and poorest sections of the community. The Government sought to force them to cut vital services, while in the process the impression was given that Manchester was a big spender, whereas their policies were not only humane but cost-effective and a big saver for the taxpayer.

Mr Frederick Silvester (Manchester, Wythenshawe, Lab) said that Manchester's Labour controlled city council had an insatiable appetite to hire more people irrespective of the needs of the housing authority. It was probably the worst in the country and it combined a mix of arrogance and insensitivity to the needs and total disregard to ratepayers.

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## Civil defence-4: Branch line closures made 1960s evacuation plans obsolete

## 'Stay where you are' would be instruction in nuclear war

By Peter Evans  
Home Affairs Correspondent

The Government has no firm plans to provide people with shelters or to evacuate them from big conurbations likely to be targets for Russian missiles. Evacuation plans were drawn up between 1963 and 1965 for people in the London area and about 10 other places thought to be a target for possible attacks. People were to be sent to less vulnerable areas: for example most of Wales, the West Country and the South coast, though such places could be subject to fallout.

Once the political decision had been taken to evacuate, the operation was planned to be spread over seven days. The closure of branch railway lines meant that the plan could not now be reactivated in its original form, even if it were thought desirable.

Though all government publicity prior to nuclear attacks would be aimed at getting people to stay put, most local authority leaders have talked to think it is unrealistic to expect everyone to do so, even if police seal off petrol stations as planned, to save the fuel for essential services.

The government argument against the provision of deep communal shelters has been that those countries which have them are geologically unsuitable: for example Switzerland can "dig sideways into a mountain", though the Swiss themselves talk of "vertical evacuation" down in the

shelters. But there have been moves by the Government to test fibreglass domestic shelters, covered by earth, a sort of 1980s equivalent of the last war's Anderson shelter, in which people would have to survive for up to a fortnight or more.

One company, Hayward Williams Ltd, which makes shelters for the military, has been "inundated with inquiries" after publicity about them, according to Mr W. J. Jones, the sales director.

The public are far from complacent about the possibility of attack. Staff at Devon County Council have also been asked for advice on how to build nuclear shelters, by people possibly stimulated by Russia's more aggressive stance as shown by its occupation of Afghanistan.

Forty per cent of people polled by Marplan for Now! in the autumn believed that they would see Britain involved in a major war, probably by the year 2000, and that thought would come in the next 10 years.

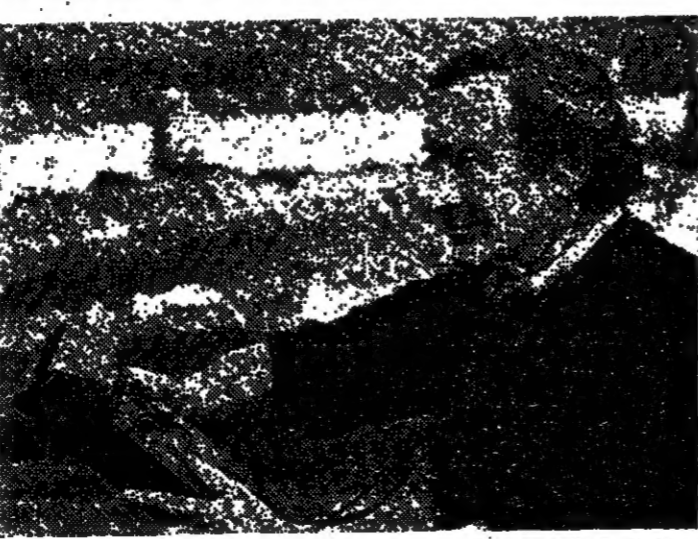
Mr J. H. Basson, emergency officer for Devon, which is as far forward as any authority in its war plans, said: "We are preparing for the possibility of a nuclear war coming out of towns." Schools and other buildings owned by the council are earmarked as possible rest centres and Devon puts emphasis on local communities being able to make their own arrangements.

From a fully equipped operations room beneath the council offices, officials have become used to handling emergencies like helping villages cut off by snow or floods. In south Devon, one of four areas into which the county is divided for emergency planning purposes, people from 36 parishes, roughly half the number in the area, will have been given a crash war training course by the end of April.

One of the aids the council can offer is a growing corps of volunteers. Already the emergency volunteer force has 1,000 members with a planned establishment of 4,500. The secretary of the force, which is embraced by the council as part of its civil defence effort, is Mr J. A. Hibbert, a former paratrooper major.

He said: "Our members are trained to provide advice for the parishes, backed by trained radio/communications operators. Radio stands for radio-activity, detection, identification and computation equipment.

The government has been criticized for doing nothing to ensure plans on paper are carried out down to community



Mr J. A. Hibbert, secretary of Devon's emergency volunteers, reading a radiation survey meter at Branscombe.

level. Mr Peter Emery, Conservative MP for Bournemouth, who told Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, about the Devon Emergency Volunteers, has been asked to provide more details for the Home Office's current review of home defence.

Mr Emery thinks Devon's volunteers could be a prototype for similar schemes nationwide.

Between 48 and 24 hours ahead of the expected attack the government will hand over governing authority to the regional commissioners and senior cabinet ministers will leave London. The chief executives of each local authority will be given powers for home defence in their areas though they will be linked with the subregions.

When radar stations, notably at Fylingdales, detect a hostile attack, they will report to RAF Strike Command. One of the home defence officers permanently on duty there will interrupt all radio and television programmes to broadcast a pre-recorded warning. He will turn a key to alert 250 major police stations, which will sound 7,000 power-operated sirens in hearing range of an estimated 85 per cent of the population. Those in rural areas will be warned by 11,000 hand-operated sirens.

Home Office plans call for no more than two and a half minutes to elapse between the warning and the sounding of sirens.

Concluded  
Leading article, page 13

## Couple cleared of racial discrimination over house

A couple were cleared at Birmingham County Court yesterday of unlawfully trying to oust their neighbours out of their home to an Indian. Judge Leo Clark, QC, ruled that the couple, Mr and Mrs Hardman, were not guilty of racial discrimination and dismissed the case against them and awarded them costs.

The Commission for Racial Equality had sought a declaration that the Hardmans unlawfully attempted to induce their neighbours to discriminate against Mr Raswaine and an injunction restraining them from similar action.

It was claimed that Mr Johal forced Mr and Mrs Hardman to sell their house for £16,500 for their semi-detached house in Westmead, Oldbury, West Midlands, to the Hardmans, fearing a drop in the value of their own

home, asked if they would sell to a higher bidder.

Judge Clark said the Hardmans had worked and saved for their home and were naturally interested in who were to be their new neighbours. They were not the sort to stir up racial hatred or wish to insult people of a different race, colour or creed.

Mrs Hardman called a meeting at her home to find out how other neighbours felt about the couple moving in. She said she was not interested in who were to be their new neighbours. They were not the sort to stir up racial hatred or wish to insult people of a different race, colour or creed.

Judge Clark said Mrs Beryl Crozier, living near, wanted her daughter, and son-in-law to live closer to her, and offered £16,500 in cash for the Watkinson's house. Mr Johal dropped out of the negotiations and the house was sold to her.

## When Mrs Castle split the party

In 1969 Mrs Barbara Castle was at the summit of her political career and the most senior woman in British politics. Then she took her biggest gamble. As Secretary of State for Employment and Productivity she published her White Paper, *In Place of Strife*.

Her attempts to reform the trade unions, to stir the TUC "carthorse" out of its lethargy, split the Cabinet and the Labour Party and angered the TUC.

The *Sunday Times* tomorrow publishes the second extract from her diaries, dealing with *In Place of Strife*, in which she described the acrid quarrels that developed within the Cabinet and the Labour movement after it was published.

## Chemistry and biology gain in popularity at A level

By Frances Gibb

Chemistry, biology and economics are fast displacing history, geography and French in popularity as A level subjects among sixth-formers, according to one of the chief examining bodies, the Joint Matriculation Board.

In its annual report for 1978-79, published yesterday, it says that in the past 10 years the total entry for French, history and geography has dropped, despite a rise of a fifth in the number of candidates taking A level with the board.

But pupils choosing biology as one of their subjects have increased by nearly 70 per cent over the decade to an entry of 11,000 last year, it says. Those choosing economics have risen by nearly 60 per cent to almost 8,000, and those choosing chemistry by 40 per cent to almost 12,500.

Chemistry has shown a dramatic rise in popularity, moving from seventh place in the top 10 subjects from 1970 to 1972, to sixth place from 1973 to 1977, to fourth place now.

Biology has moved from ninth to sixth place over the decade and economics has moved after six years in the tenth position to ninth place, displacing French from its place for the past four years.

General studies, which displaced English literature as the most popular subject in 1972, still tops the list, having more than doubled its entry over the 10 years to nearly 30,000 last year.

The top 10 A level subjects in order of size of entry last year were: general studies, English literature, physics, chemistry, mathematics, biology, history, geography, economics and French.

## Detective tells of hostess's 'offer' in Mayfair club

Salvatore Vella, aged 50, a former head waiter, had said he was able to invest £21,000 in the Mayfair Connection, a Mayfair club, from his own savings, it was stated by a detective at Knightsbridge Crown Court, London, yesterday.

Mr Vella, of St John's Wood, London, has pleaded not guilty to living off the earnings of prostitutes working from Churchills Club.

Harry Meadows, aged 61, clubowner, of Chesterfield Gardens, Westminster, and his son, Andrew Meadows, aged 36, of Queen Street, Westminster, deny similar charges.

Det Chief Inspector Colin

Coxall said he interviewed Mr Vella at the Mayfair Connection after Mr Vella had retired from Churchills. Mr Vella told him the girls at the club were just hostesses and it was none of his business what they did in their spare time.

Det Constable Alistair McDonald said he went with Mr Coxall to the club where he was propositioned by a hostess named Margaret. He said she wanted £50 for sexual intercourse.

Constable McDonald said she gave him her telephone number.

The trial continues on Monday

**AFGHANISTAN/IRAN**

# Refugees begin to overwhelm Pakistan

consideration of the Salt 2 agreement.—Agence France-Presse and UPI.

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# Saturday Review



The thirties were to see the Surrealist movement scattered into factions, but the beginning of the decade—the brief years of the significantly titled *Le Surréalisme au Service de la Révolution*—were euphoric. "Surrealism at that time," André Breton later wrote, "reminds me of a superb and demystified ship, which could from one moment to the next have either gone to the bottom or have triumphantly reached the land of which Rimbaud spoke where we would at last know 'the true life'."

Of all the shocks of those stormy and exhilarating times, none more powerfully united and mobilised the French Surrealist group than the affair of *L'Age d'Or*, which broke on December 3, 1930. So excited was the whole group by the scandal provoked by Luis Buñuel's film that they rushed out a four-page pamphlet, *L'Affaire de l'Age d'Or*, as full of anger as of misprints. There were 18 signatories: it was almost the last time before the rifts began that the names of Aragon and Breton, Buñuel and Dali could appear in alliance.

Happily for history, the pamphlet recorded a lively day-by-day account of the events. The film opened on Friday, November 28, at Studio 28, a small Parisian cinema d'essai, inaugurated, as its name indicates, a couple of years earlier. The programme had a gold cover, and illustrations by Dali, Arp, Max Ernst, Man Ray, Miró and Yves Tanguy.

The first five days were quiet, but on December 3 the forces of respectability went into the attack. A group representing the League of Patriots and the Anti-Jewish League played themselves in the audience, and waited for the moment in the film where an elegant couple alight from a cab and carefully deposit a young man in the gutter. With cries of "Let's see if there are still Christians in France!" and "Death to the Jews!" the demonstrators threw purple ink at the screen, lit our stink bombs, and set about the rest of the audience with cudgels in an effort to persuade them to leave the show.

Falling apparently in this intention, they rushed out into the foyer where there was the exhibition of 20 works by Arp, Dali, Ernst, Miró, Ray Tanguy. Having smashed the furniture and windows and cut the telephone wires, they proceeded to smash the paintings. The damage was estimated at 80,000 francs. When other members of the audience arrived at the police station to swear out a complaint, they were for their pains held for verification of addresses: the demonstrators had arrived there before them, to denounce the film.

In the days that followed, the right-wing press gave their outraged support to the demonstrators and to a subsequent, more formal protest by the League of Patriots against this "Bolshevik spectacle." Richard Pierre Bodin in *Le Figaro* was a characteristic voice:

"A film called *L'Age d'Or*, in which I defy any qualified technician to recognize the least artistic value, assumes the form of a public spectacle, the most obscene, repellent and paltry episodes. Country, family and religion are dragged through the mud. All who have fought for the glory of France, all who respect religion, even though they may be atheists, all who honour the family and childhood, all who hold in their hands the future of a race which illumines the whole world, all those Frenchmen who have chosen you for defence against low spectacles, demand that you (the authorities) bring the censorship to bear in full force."

Outside Paris, *Le Petit Oranais* was confident where the blame should be laid: Applauding what it called "an important anti-Jewish demonstration in a Judeo-Bolshevik cinema", the reporter related that:

"The scandal remained on the screen for four days. The anti-Semites reckoned that enough was enough, and that it was time to teach the gentlemen of the synagogue a lesson. . . . Let the Jews rest easy that we shall not rest easy. Our friends had just cause."

The authorities were spurred to action. On December 5 the Ministère de l'Instruction Publique conferred with the Conseil Municipal, the Prefecture of Police and the President of the Censorship authority. As a result Jean Mauguier, director of Studio 28, was instructed to remove "the two Bishop passages" from the film. On December 8 he was asked further to remove "the Jesus Christ passage"; but when he showed that there was no such episode in the film, he was required instead to delete from the programme note the phrase "Le Comte de Blangis est évidemment Jésus-Christ."

On December 9 the harassed M. Mauguier was asked to show film to the appeal commission of the censorship on the morning of the 11th; but even before this screening, at 5.20 pm on the 10th, he was warned that the film was already totally forbidden. This decision had apparently been taken in the throes of emotion produced by the declaration of M. le Provost de Launay, condemning as "outrages" the works of surrealism at large, as well as other films of Germanic inspiration or origin which are shown or may be shown in the Champs-Élysées district, BARELY TWO PAGES from the Unknown Soldier.

On December 11 the censorship appeal committee announced that the film's visa had been withdrawn and that the director of the cinema would be forthwith prosecuted. Next day the Police confiscated the only two prints of the film, one from the cinema and one from the home of M. Mauguier.

While the League of Patriots were busy offering formal congratulations to M. le Provost de Launay, the Surrealists went ahead with their pamphlet. It included a public questionnaire. In relation to events in France after 1939, the questions were strikingly pertinent:

"Since when has there been no freedom in France to question seriously religion, its roots, the habits of its representatives, etc. . . . Since when have the police been dedicated to anti-semitism? Is the police action, in sanctioning the programme of the League of Patriots, an official encouragement to the setting up of fascist methods in France? . . ."

The questionnaire went on to compare the suppression of this surrealist film with the way that "Soviet films have been prohibited and as Hitler's police have prohibited *All Quiet on the Western Front* in Germany."

Is not the use of provocation to justify the subsequent intervention of the police the sign of a movement towards fascism? Can it for one moment be pretended that this intervention, under the pretext of protecting children, youth, the family, the fatherland and religion, this clear conversion to fascism, has not the object of destroying everything that might oppose the approaching war?

Readers who were tempted to reply to the questionnaire were asked to direct their letters to André Breton, at 42 rue Fontaine—the editorial address of *Le Surréalisme au Service de la Révolution*.

So much fuss, and all over a film: a film, at that, which had been made for a sum derisory even in terms of production half a century ago—something in the region of six or seven thousand pounds sterling. But Luis Buñuel, its creator, already possessed, as he still possesses, a quite demonic power to shock and disturb and offend, even about its director, Abel Gance, Spain, in 1900, arrived in Paris in 1925, full of enthusiasm and with no idea what he wanted to do. He was shy, but handsome and stylish, with the added social cachet of having been a boxing champion. He worked as assistant to the avant-garde film director Jean Epstein, and to a Josephine Baker vehicle, *La Sirène des Tropiques*. He was offered a job on the historic *Napoleon*, but was abruptly dismissed about its director, Abel Gance, that he permanently forfeited his friendship with Epstein.

As a true Spaniard and Aragonese, Surrealism was in his very blood. "In 1929," he declared in an unpublished autobiography, written in a confident and only slightly imperfect English. "I entered the Surrealist group of Paris. Its moral and artistic intransigence, its new social political idealism, perfectly suited my temperament. As I was the only moving picture person in the group, I decided to take the necessities of Surrealism to the screen. The same year I asked my mother for \$2,500 to make my first cinematographic experiment. Only she would have financed an idea that seemed ridiculous to everyone else. My mother gave me the money more out of love than understanding of my venture, which I was careful not to explain to her. Thus I produced my first film, which was at the same time the first Surrealist film, entitled: *Un Chien Andalou*. It is a two-reel short in which there are neither dogs nor Andalusians."

In later years he admitted that the film was made with only half the money his mother gave him: the rest he spent in Paris. His co-author was Salvador Dali, who had been a close friend since 1920. *Un Chien Andalou*, with its still shocking opening image of a razor slashing an eyeball, was an instant success of scandal. More important, André Breton, who had scornfully dismissed previous avant-garde gags that had laid claim to surrealism, announced, uncompromisingly: "Yes: this is a Surrealist film."

Buñuel now found a new patron. Charles Vicomte de Noailles had taken a lively interest in the Surrealists, and in 1929 he commissioned Man Ray to make a film about the cubist house Mallet-Stevens had built for him at Hyères, *Le Mystère du Château de Dés*. When Man Ray declined de Noailles's invitation to make a full length film, de Noailles, by this time passionate about the cinema, sought other outlets for his patronage.

Buñuel recalled: "Shortly after the opening of *Un Chien Andalou*, Georges Henri Rivière, assistant director of the Museum Trocadero and an intimate friend of Vicomte de Noailles, patron and exquisite generous people, called me. Rivière took me to their home and introduced me. My present friends, Charles and Marie Laure de Noailles, wanted to give me the means to make another film, in which they gave me a complete liberty in the choice of subject. They only asked that the score of the film be written by Stravinsky. I had to refuse the latter, since my Surrealist discipline and the artistic tendencies of our group were incompatible with those of Stravinsky, above all from a moral standpoint. The patrons agreed to do without the musician and the score was taken from fragments of classical

## Buñuel's first blast

by David Robinson

music. So my second film was called *L'Age d'Or*.

At the same time as he gave one million francs to Buñuel, de Noailles gave a similar sum to Jean Cocteau to finance *Le Sang d'un Poète*. As scrupulous as economical, Buñuel was able to hand back one third of the money to his patron after finishing the film.

Most of it was completed in four weeks, in the Billancourt studios, where the celebrated party scene was filmed. Exterior shots were shot in the suburbs of Paris and, for the Majorcan prologue, in Cadaques, the home of Salvador Dali, where both Buñuel and his friend Garcia Lorca had spent part of the previous summer.

Apart from the principals—the wonderfully taciturn Gaston Modot, a kind of prototype John Cleese, and Lya Lys—most of the cast were friends, including Max Ernst and Pierre Frévert, who play bandits, and Jacques Brunius and his sister Simone, Cocteau's Sir Roland Penrose, then a young man in Paris, recalls being asked by his friend Max Ernst, "Do you have a

frac?" When he replied that he had, Ernst said, "Well, you're the only surrealist who has one. So bring it to the Billancourt Studios." Hence Penrose's appearance as a guest in the party scene.

As he was always to do, Buñuel worked himself and his cast hard and with discipline; but everyone seemed to enjoy the experience and to like the finished film. Buñuel recalls that the de Noailles also were pleased with the film, and went to its premiere in cheerful anticipation of congratulation. The shock of the scandal was then all the greater for the film's patrons. They could no doubt have supported the disapproval and even ostracism of their peers in Parisian society; but when the Pope and the milkman alike turned on them, the pain was too great.

In consequence of the reaction, they hesitated to release Cocteau's innocuous film until 1931, and a scene in which the de Noailles and some of their friends appeared was removed. (Even then the film was received with hostility.) After

1934 the Marquis would permit no distribution of *L'Age d'Or*; and for the next 45 years the film circulated only in pirated copies. With characteristic generosity and historical foresight, however, the Marquis donated the original negative material to the Cinémathèque Française. When last year he and his daughter finally consented to the re-release of Buñuel's film, the survival of this material made possible the production of new copies, which reveal the forgotten technical excellence of the sound and image of the original.

The notoriety of *L'Age d'Or* also continued to pursue Buñuel. After his brilliant, brutal documentary *Las Hurdes* (1932) Buñuel drifted into virtual obscurity. He was heard of from time to time—producing low-budget comedies in Spain, making compilations on the Civil War, planning abortive Hollywood projects, preparing Spanish versions of American films. In 1942 he was forced to resign a job at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, when the Archbishop of New York (later Cardinal Spellman) learnt from *The Secret Life of Salvador Dali* that Buñuel was "the Ace of Spades" and had made a blasphemous film called *L'Age d'Or* and threatened the Museum with dire consequences (economic rather than spiritual) if he did not leave forthwith.

The 18 years that separate *Las Hurdes* from Buñuel's reappearance as a major international director with *Los Olvidados* (1950) represent a hiatus almost without parallel in the career of any other major creative artist.

Even if we are today not so eager to be outraged as were the neo-fascists of 1930 Paris, Buñuel's film has lost little of its force. The script is credited to Buñuel and Dali, but Dali's name has been removed, and little, and nothing that was important. According to Buñuel, Dali's marriage to Gala had already begun to divide the friends, even before the film was begun. Before the scandal, however, Dali was still prepared to claim a hand in the creation, and his note in the programme is a fair summary of the film:

"My general idea in writing the script was to display the technical resources, always preferring hard, contrasty, unpicturesque camera work (any 'aesthetic' quality was anathema to the Surrealist mind) there is no escaping the extraordinary inventiveness of the technique, particularly in the use and counterpoint of the sound, then still a very new medium."

History has so revolved that in some respects *L'Age d'Or* now appears no less timely than when it was new. To quote the programme notes again:

"We must search far back in history to find a cataclysm comparable to modern times. . . . Shown at a moment when banks collapse, when revolutions break out, when the guns are already being rolled out, the film should be seen by all those who are still undisturbed by such news as the cinema permit to appear in the newspapers."

After fifty years *L'Age d'Or* has graduated from scandal to classic. Hundreds of critics have paid homage; but the best evaluation is still that of Henry Miller, who saw the film on its first Paris showing: "It was convinced that 'L'Age d'Or' is unique and unparalleled"; is presumably the same "Harry V. Miller" who wrote a letter to Buñuel so appreciative that the director kept it ever after; and a few years later published his masterly essay in *The Cosmological Eye*.

especially characteristic of Surrealist art. It is the very clarity of first appearances which makes the endless suggestions and reverberations and mysteries (the essence of surrealism) the more powerful.

By the same token, the assault which the enemies of the film sensed so keenly was all the worse because it was so hard to specify. The film's victims were not given the pleasure and luxury of direct abuse, direct images of revolution, murder, naked sexuality, but only teasing suggestions and metaphors. True, the programme notes, signed by the same group as the letter pamphlet, with the exception of Buñuel, Ernst, Georges Méliès, Man Ray and Yves Tanguy, rather gleefully drew attention to certain incidents particularly calculated to affront: "We see among other scenes, a blind man abused, a dog kicked, a son killed almost gratuitously by his father, an old gentleman struck, etc." They also mischievously rhapsodised over:

"The purity of the film . . . crystallised in the vision of the heroine sitting on the lavatory, where the power of the spirit succeeds in sublimating a situation normally baroque into a poetic element of the purest nobility and solitude."

It is hardly surprising that the fascists were fazed.

The film is an anthology of the Surrealists' then current preoccupations and enthusiasms, artistic and political, and not least the Marquis de Sade (the most startling aspect of the film, to this day, is the Christ-like appearance of the worst of the debauches of the Chateau de Selly). It is, too, a basic collection of Buñuel imagery to whose traces and echoes the devotees can pursue in every Buñuel film, down to the very last: the menacing Holy Week drums remembered from his youth in Calanda; the "discreet charm" and haughty elegance of a society party, unperturbed by the invasion of a careful of drunken dustmen or the sudden appearance of a blushing housemaid; the films which crawl on the face of the old nobleman; the cow on the bed; the abusive use of leitmotifs from Wagner and Mendelssohn.

While Buñuel has always striven to conceal rather than to display his technical resources, always preferring hard, contrasty, unpicturesque camera work (any "aesthetic" quality was anathema to the Surrealist mind) there is no escaping the extraordinary inventiveness of the technique, particularly in the use and counterpoint of the sound, then still a very new medium.

History has so revolved that in some respects *L'Age d'Or* now appears no less timely than when it was new. To quote the programme notes again:

"We must search far back in history to find a cataclysm comparable to modern times. . . . Shown at a moment when banks collapse, when revolutions break out, when the guns are already being rolled out, the film should be seen by all those who are still undisturbed by such news as the cinema permit to appear in the newspapers."

After fifty years *L'Age d'Or* has graduated from scandal to classic. Hundreds of critics have paid homage; but the best evaluation is still that of Henry Miller, who saw the film on its first Paris showing: "It was convinced that 'L'Age d'Or' is unique and unparalleled"; is presumably the same "Harry V. Miller" who wrote a letter to Buñuel so appreciative that the director kept it ever after; and a few years later published his masterly essay in *The Cosmological Eye*.

They have called Buñuel everything—brilliant, anarchic, pervert, defame, iconoclast. But indeed they dare not call him. True it is lunacy he portrays in his film, but it is not of his making. This striking chaos which for a brief hour or so is amalgamated under his magic wand, this is the lunacy of man's achievements after ten thousand years of civilisation. . . . The film is composed of a succession of images without precedent, the significance of which must be sought below the threshold of consciousness. Those who were deceived because they could not find order or meaning in it will find order and meaning elsewhere, except perhaps in the world of the gods or the ants.

Next month, on February 22, Buñuel will be 80. In more than 60 years of creative life, since his first precocious writings, he has never compromised "the great tenderness, the great purity and poetry of his vision" (quoting Miller again), which forces him to reveal the abominable, the malicious, the ugly and the hypocritical facets of man. . . . Being normal, instinctive, healthy, gay, unpretentious, he finds himself alone in the crazy drift of social forces.

If the films of latter years reveal a certain lightening of the heart, a preference for comedy, it in no way implies that he is any more inclined than he ever was to tolerate wickedness and folly.

Today Buñuel lives quietly in Mexico where he went in 1947 after a fruitless sojourn in Hollywood. Visitors tend to be shocked, but only by the bourgeois contentment of his domestic life. During the past two decades he has been regularly lured to Europe to make pictures, each of which he grumbles is definitely his last. Ironically, the old unredeemed surrealist, anarchist and scandalizer has become a big commercial success.

He has found a sympathetic co-writer, Jean-Claude Carrière, and a producer, Serge Silberman, who has provided electronic aids to relieve the strain of directing on the 80-year-old body which houses a mind always younger and more lively. His most recent film, *Cet Obscur Objet du Désir*, appeared a couple of years ago. Based on Pierre Louis' fantastic novel *Le Fémur et la Pantin*—a celebration, like *L'Age d'Or* itself, of *l'amour fou*, and a work much admired by the Surrealists—it realized an old personal ambition.

Now there are again rumours of a new script, a new emergence from domestic inactivity, a new return to work. Whatever the result, no doubt it will continue to divide the world into two irreconcilable parties: those who are for Buñuel, and those who are against. As Henry Miller saw it:

"There is no straddling the issue. Either you are crazy, like the rest of civilized humanity, or you are sane and healthy like Buñuel. And if you are sane and healthy you are an anarchist and you throw bombs."

*L'Age d'Or* was Buñuel's first bomb; and it is still his biggest.

The quotations from Buñuel's Autobiography are reproduced from Francisco Aranda's *Buñuel: A Critical Biography*, translated, edited and annotated by David Robinson (London: Secker and Warburg, 1975). The quotations from Henry Miller are from *The Cosmological Eye* (New Directions Publishing Corporation, 1939). The illustration of the original *L'Age d'Or* programme are by courtesy of Sir Roland Penrose, who loaned his personal copy for reproduction. *L'Age d'Or* is currently showing at the ICA.

Left: the cow on the bed in *L'Age d'Or*. Above: a 1927 caricature of Luis Buñuel









ENTERTAINMENTS

Unsold seats at cut price to students just before performance. When telephoning use prefix 01 only outside London Metropolitan Area.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Tonight, 19th January, 8.00 p.m.

Rachmaninov

THREE RUSSIAN SONGS

STABAT MATER ALEXANDER NEVSKY

FELICITY LOTT ELIZABETH CONNELL WILLARD WHITE  
soprano contralto bass  
LONDON CHORAL SOCIETY  
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA  
Conductor SIMON RATTLE  
£1.20, £1.50, £2.70, £3.00, £2.10, £1.40 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Monday, 21 January at 8 p.m.

JOHN PRITCHARD

BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

MARGARET MARSHALL ANN MURRAY  
ANTHONY ROLFE JOHNSON GWYNNE HOWELL  
BBC Symphony Chorus  
MAXWELL DAVIES: Second Fantasia on an air in memory of John Tavener  
MOZART: Mass in D minor (Requiem) (K.626)  
£1.50, £2.10, £3.00, £2.70, £4.40, £2.50 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

TUESDAY NEXT, 22 JANUARY at 8 p.m.

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CLAUDIO ABBADO

ANNE-SOPHIE MUTTER

SCHUBERT: Symphony No. 8 in B minor "Unfinished"  
MENDELSSOHN: Violin Concerto in E minor  
HAYDN: Sinfonia Concertante in B flat for violin, cello, oboe & bassoon  
R. STRAUSS: Till Eulenspiegel  
£1.50, £2.10, £3.00, £2.70, £4.40, £2.50 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

MOZART: Symphony No. 41 in C, K.551 "Jupiter"  
MOZART: Mass in C minor, K.427  
MARGARET PRICE FREDERICA VON STADE  
DENNIS O'NEILL JOHN SHIRLEY-QUIRK  
LONDON SYMPHONY CHORUS  
£1.50, £2.10, £3.00, £2.70, £4.40, £2.50 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Philharmonia Orchestra

FRIDAY, 25 JANUARY at 8

VERNON HANDLEY

RALPH KIRSHBAUM

JOHN WALLACE: Tune  
(First London performance)  
WALTON: Cello Concerto  
WALTON: Symphony No. 1  
£1.40, £2.10, £3.00, £2.70, £4.40, £2.50 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

WEDNESDAY, 30 JANUARY at 8.00 p.m.

GENNADI ROZHDESTVENSKY

BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

LINDA ESTHER GRAY KENNETH BOWEN  
ROBERT TEAR JOHN SHIRLEY-QUIRK  
ELIZAVETA KALININA  
£1.50, £2.10, £3.00, £2.70, £4.40, £2.50 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

HAYDN-MOZART SOCIETY WEDNESDAY, 6 FEBRUARY at 8 p.m.

LONDON MOZART PLAYERS

Conductor: HARRY BLECH

MOZART: Symphony No. 37 in G  
MENDELSSOHN: Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor  
MOZART: Mass in C minor, K.427  
PETER FRANKL piano  
£1.50, £2.10, £3.00, £2.70, £4.40, £2.50 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

RAYMOND CURRY presents SATURDAY, 16 FEBRUARY at 8 p.m.

Mendelssohn: Ov. "The Hebrides"

Handel: Water Music Suite

Grieg: Piano Concerto

Beethoven: Symphony No. 5

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

Conductor: HENRY KRIPS, MALCOLM BINNS piano  
£1.75, £2.50, £3.75, £4.25, £1.75 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

WEDNESDAY NEXT 23 JANUARY at 7.45 p.m.

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

JEAN-BERNARD POMMIER conductor/soloist

WILLIAM BENNETT flute

Works by MOZART, HAYDN  
For details see South Bank press  
With assistance from the Carol Samson Charitable Trust

De Koo presents THURSDAY NEXT, 24 JANUARY at 7.45

Recital by the distinguished French pianist

CLAUDE HELFFER

Berg: Sonata Op. 1  
Schumann: Kreisleriana, Op. 16  
Beethoven: Sonata in B flat, Op. 106 (Hammerklavier)  
£2.50, £2.20, £1.75, £1.50, £1.20 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

FRI. 25 JANUARY at 7.45, QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

TAMAS VASARY

conductor

COLIN CARR NEIL JENKINS HUGH POTTS  
soprano tenor horn

Northern Sinfonia Orchestra

Britten Sereade: Poulenc Mouvements perpetuels: Tchaikovsky  
"Rococo variations": Martinu Divertimento: Mozart "Linz"  
Tickets from Royal Festival Hall Box Office (01-928 3191) & Agents 95p-£2.50  
This programme will also be given at NEWCASTLE CITY HALL, THURSDAY,  
24 Jan., at 7.45 (full details, Newcastle 22108)

THURSDAY, 7 FEBRUARY at 7.45 p.m.

Recital by the distinguished French pianist

ABBEY SIMON piano

Sonata in F minor, Op. 57 BEETHOVEN  
Carnaval, Op. 9 SCHUMANN  
Six Studies after Paganini LISZT  
£1.50, £2.10, £3.00, £2.70, £4.40, £2.50 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

FRIDAY, 8 FEBRUARY at 7.45 p.m.

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

GEORGE MALCOLM conductor

ANDRAS SCHIFF JOSE-LUIS GARCIA NEIL BLACK  
piano violin horn

BACH  
Suite No. 3 in D, Concerto for piano in E  
Concerto for violin & piano in D, Concerto for two pianos in C  
£1.50, £2.10, £3.00, £2.70, £4.40, £2.50 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

SATURDAY, 9 FEBRUARY at 7.45 p.m.

BAROQUE MUSIC FOR TWO CHOIRS AND TWO ORCHESTRAS

CHARPENTIER VIVALDI CARISSIMI

MASS BEATUS VIR JONAH

Judith Rose, Patricia Priestley-Smith, David James,  
Andrew King, Jonathan Roberts

CITY OF LONDON CHOIR LONDON BACH ORCHESTRA

Conductor DONALD CAMMORRE  
£1.50, £2.10, £3.00, £2.70, £4.40, £2.50 from Box Office (01-928 3191) & Agents

WEDNESDAY, 13 FEBRUARY at 7.45 p.m.

MOZART

The Complete Works for Solo Flute and Orchestra  
performed on original instruments  
Concerto in G, K.313; Concerto in D, K.314; Andante in C, K.315  
and two Vivaldi Flute Concertos from Op. 10

JOHN SOLUM

Transverse Flute  
The Hanoverian Orchestra  
London Simon Solum  
£3.00, £2.50, £2.00, £1.50 from Box Office (01-928 3191) & Agents  
IBBS & TILLEY

GLC South Bank Concert Halls

Director: George Mann OBE  
Ticket reservations only: 928 3191 Mondays to Saturdays  
from 10am to 6pm. Telephone bookings not accepted on Sundays.  
Information: 928 3002. For enquiries when postal bookings have  
already been made: 928 2972. S.A.E. with postal applications.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Today 19 Jan. 8 p.m.  
LONDON CHORAL SOCIETY Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Simon  
Rattle (cond.). Felicity Lott, Elizabeth Connell, Willard White  
soprano contralto bass  
Sinfonia Concertante in B flat for violin, cello, oboe & bassoon  
£1.50, £2.10, £3.00, £2.70, £4.40, £2.50 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Sunday 20 Jan. 3.15 p.m.  
LONDON CHORAL SOCIETY Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Simon  
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Sunday 20 Jan. 7.30 p.m.  
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LONDON CHORAL SOCIETY Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Simon  
Rattle (cond.). Felicity Lott, Elizabeth Connell, Willard White  
soprano contralto bass  
Sinfonia Concertante in B flat for violin, cello, oboe & bassoon  
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## Chess

## Post Hastings depression

A devoted chessplayer views a great international tournament, or any tournament for that matter, under three very different aspects and in this respect the chronological factor is all-important. Beforehand he anticipates its coming with keen anticipation and the promotional moistening which, according to Charles Lamb, overflowed the nether lip of the fire-raising swineherd who discovered roast pork, cannot compare with the relish of the chess enthusiast at the prospect of seeing great players in action against each other.

During the course of the tournament his feelings are mixed. There are a blend of delight at the sight of the experts, with the brilliant and/or subtly expressed or disappointment at witnessing the failure of the players to seize the opportunities offered by the chessboard and the pieces. If in fact he is playing in the tournament then his feelings become enhanced to bliss or torture in accordance with his success or frustration.

When the tournament is over he is assailed by a melancholy of proportions as great as those he experienced during or before the event. It is as though he has passed from a world full of colour and lively incident to a drab, gray, featureless existence. Even if he has himself played and done badly, the bitter words of Ecclesiastes about the transitory nature of man's existence or those of the ancient Greek dramatist, "His better not to have been born at all" will be uppermost in his thoughts.

So your devoted chessplayer is a bundle of contradictions, like the ordinary human being. And, as I class myself among these two categories, and here at Hastings we are almost at the end of the last round of the 55th ICL grandmaster tournament, it seems to me that from the gray sea some twenty yards away from where I wrote these lines, waves of melancholy are rolling in through the somewhat ill-fitting windows of my hotel room.

Yet it has been a fine tournament full of entertaining moments and fierce struggles.

For the patriot, for the lover of home-grown produce in particular, it has proved to be an enthralling event. Despite the strength of the opposition some of our players are occupying positions at the head of the table. In the earlier half of the tournament it was the young British champion, Jonathan Speelman, who contested the lead with last year's first prize-winner, the highly talented Swedish grandmaster, Ulf Andersson.

Ulf has been having a wonderful season of successes in great tournaments and he was expected to win first prize here by all the experts, with the possible exception of Ulf himself, since he is as modest as he is talented.

Here, however, his leading position was strenuously disputed by the chessboard. When Speelman struck to 12 his place as home-challenger was more than adequately filled by the 24-year-old Oxford University mathematician, John Nunn, who is our youngest grandmaster.

In fact, in Round 12 even younger English aid came to topple the Swedish grandmaster from the shape of the 14-year-old schoolboy, Nigel Short. His defeat of Andersson was an impressive display of skill and tenacity, rendered all the more striking in that, with this victory he came within half a point of the score necessary for the international master title, a score he duly attained by drawing with the British champion Bellin in the next round.

With Andersson's loss to Short and Nunn's steady winning progress, these two continued to lead the tournament and Nunn was even ahead when the last round was reached. But the British grandmaster was opposed by Mestel whereas Andersson was playing Zilber and expected to beat him. It is not that the gray sea some twenty yards away from where I wrote these lines, waves of melancholy are rolling in through the somewhat ill-fitting windows of my hotel room.

Yet it has been a fine tournament full of entertaining moments and fierce struggles.

Many port houses declared 1977 a vintage year, and the wines have already begun to attract attention. Unfortunately, some public mentions have conveyed the impression that vintage port is something to buy in order to make money. It is fair to say that, if you buy vintage port (or any wine) for the benefit of yourself and your friends, even your heirs, this is an investment; but if you buy with the intention of selling the wine again to make a profit, this is speculation. As wine is a perishable commodity, its price can fluctuate, and the sale rooms can do it little good and, with vintage port, definite harm.

Vintage port (now all bottled in Vila Nova (de Gaia) should be allowed to form its crust peacefully for the first five years of its life in bottles; after that it can be moved about and, with further rest, will again "fall bright". But if the crust does not form firmly in the early stages, it never seems to do so, and the wine will be cloudy and not at its best.

Vintage port, even in a prolific year, accounts for no more than three per cent of port produced and several great establishments, notably Cockburn and Noval, have not declared 1977 because, one assumes, they need all their wine for their great blends, such as the fine old marmals and late bottled ports.

Until just before the vintage, 1977 was coolish, then the Douro region became very hot and the grapes were in fine condition when picked; the vines promise to be long-lasting (1975), the last vintage declared, made somewhat light wines) so that 15-20 years' maturation in bottle must be given and certainly the port will be great drinking at the turn of the century. But good cellaring is essential and, with space costing more everywhere, those proposing to buy in the early stages should be sure that they can keep the wine correctly and are prepared, if necessary, to pay for the keeping.

Some firms are keeping their 1977 in Vila Nova de Gaia until the spring, when they will hold them there until later in 1980 and some for even longer. Anyone looking at prices must bear in mind that what they may pay their merchant in the United Kingdom now will be only the price for the wine with duty currently around £3.50 per case. Any changes in the next budget, also the VAT (charged on the value of the wine and the duty) will also be extra. As the ports of 1977 are already in short supply (they were never abundant) merchants may be "on quota" for the various houses. At this stage, the wines must also be purchased in case lots.

Because of the various influences affecting prices, it is difficult to be precise about each wine but £70 is an approximate case price for most 1977s. Some, such as Taylor and Fonseca, will be more expensive, others less. Laytons (28 Midland Road, NW1) recently showed 14 1977s and can quote for all those mentioned here. The shippers are listed because, although they cannot supply the public direct, they can give information as to local stockists throughout the United Kingdom. Anyone able to buy in quantity should inquire about discounts.

All good merchants should have several 1977s. Corney & Barrow (12 Helmer Row, ECI),

This fine game was played in Round 4 of the ICL grandmasters tournament at Hastings and I am much beholden to the winner for expounding to me in lucid, expert and yet most modest terms the many interesting ideas he had during the game.

White: N. Short. Black: A. Lein. Caro, Kann Defence.

1-P-K4 P-Q4 2-P-K5 P-Q4 3-P-K4 P-Q4 4-P-K4 P-Q4 5-P-K4 P-Q4 6-P-K4 P-Q4 7-P-K4 P-Q4 8-P-K4 P-Q4 9-P-K4 P-Q4 10-P-K4 P-Q4 11-P-K4 P-Q4 12-P-K4 P-Q4 13-P-K4 P-Q4 14-P-K4 P-Q4 15-P-K4 P-Q4 16-P-K4 P-Q4 17-P-K4 P-Q4 18-P-K4 P-Q4 19-P-K4 P-Q4 20-P-K4 P-Q4 21-P-K4 P-Q4 22-P-K4 P-Q4 23-P-K4 P-Q4 24-P-K4 P-Q4 25-P-K4 P-Q4 26-P-K4 P-Q4 27-P-K4 P-Q4 28-P-K4 P-Q4 29-P-K4 P-Q4 30-P-K4 P-Q4 31-P-K4 P-Q4 32-P-K4 P-Q4 33-P-K4 P-Q4 34-P-K4 P-Q4 35-P-K4 P-Q4 36-P-K4 P-Q4 37-P-K4 P-Q4 38-P-K4 P-Q4 39-P-K4 P-Q4 40-P-K4 P-Q4 41-P-K4 P-Q4 42-P-K4 P-Q4 43-P-K4 P-Q4 44-P-K4 P-Q4 45-P-K4 P-Q4 46-P-K4 P-Q4 47-P-K4 P-Q4 48-P-K4 P-Q4 49-P-K4 P-Q4 50-P-K4 P-Q4 51-P-K4 P-Q4 52-P-K4 P-Q4 53-P-K4 P-Q4 54-P-K4 P-Q4 55-P-K4 P-Q4 56-P-K4 P-Q4 57-P-K4 P-Q4 58-P-K4 P-Q4 59-P-K4 P-Q4 60-P-K4 P-Q4 61-P-K4 P-Q4 62-P-K4 P-Q4 63-P-K4 P-Q4 64-P-K4 P-Q4 65-P-K4 P-Q4 66-P-K4 P-Q4 67-P-K4 P-Q4 68-P-K4 P-Q4 69-P-K4 P-Q4 70-P-K4 P-Q4 71-P-K4 P-Q4 72-P-K4 P-Q4 73-P-K4 P-Q4 74-P-K4 P-Q4 75-P-K4 P-Q4 76-P-K4 P-Q4 77-P-K4 P-Q4 78-P-K4 P-Q4 79-P-K4 P-Q4 80-P-K4 P-Q4 81-P-K4 P-Q4 82-P-K4 P-Q4 83-P-K4 P-Q4 84-P-K4 P-Q4 85-P-K4 P-Q4 86-P-K4 P-Q4 87-P-K4 P-Q4 88-P-K4 P-Q4 89-P-K4 P-Q4 90-P-K4 P-Q4 91-P-K4 P-Q4 92-P-K4 P-Q4 93-P-K4 P-Q4 94-P-K4 P-Q4 95-P-K4 P-Q4 96-P-K4 P-Q4 97-P-K4 P-Q4 98-P-K4 P-Q4 99-P-K4 P-Q4 100-P-K4 P-Q4 101-P-K4 P-Q4 102-P-K4 P-Q4 103-P-K4 P-Q4 104-P-K4 P-Q4 105-P-K4 P-Q4 106-P-K4 P-Q4 107-P-K4 P-Q4 108-P-K4 P-Q4 109-P-K4 P-Q4 110-P-K4 P-Q4 111-P-K4 P-Q4 112-P-K4 P-Q4 113-P-K4 P-Q4 114-P-K4 P-Q4 115-P-K4 P-Q4 116-P-K4 P-Q4 117-P-K4 P-Q4 118-P-K4 P-Q4 119-P-K4 P-Q4 120-P-K4 P-Q4 121-P-K4 P-Q4 122-P-K4 P-Q4 123-P-K4 P-Q4 124-P-K4 P-Q4 125-P-K4 P-Q4 126-P-K4 P-Q4 127-P-K4 P-Q4 128-P-K4 P-Q4 129-P-K4 P-Q4 130-P-K4 P-Q4 131-P-K4 P-Q4 132-P-K4 P-Q4 133-P-K4 P-Q4 134-P-K4 P-Q4 135-P-K4 P-Q4 136-P-K4 P-Q4 137-P-K4 P-Q4 138-P-K4 P-Q4 139-P-K4 P-Q4 140-P-K4 P-Q4 141-P-K4 P-Q4 142-P-K4 P-Q4 143-P-K4 P-Q4 144-P-K4 P-Q4 145-P-K4 P-Q4 146-P-K4 P-Q4 147-P-K4 P-Q4 148-P-K4 P-Q4 149-P-K4 P-Q4 150-P-K4 P-Q4 151-P-K4 P-Q4 152-P-K4 P-Q4 153-P-K4 P-Q4 154-P-K4 P-Q4 155-P-K4 P-Q4 156-P-K4 P-Q4 157-P-K4 P-Q4 158-P-K4 P-Q4 159-P-K4 P-Q4 160-P-K4 P-Q4 161-P-K4 P-Q4 162-P-K4 P-Q4 163-P-K4 P-Q4 164-P-K4 P-Q4 165-P-K4 P-Q4 166-P-K4 P-Q4 167-P-K4 P-Q4 168-P-K4 P-Q4 169-P-K4 P-Q4 170-P-K4 P-Q4 171-P-K4 P-Q4 172-P-K4 P-Q4 173-P-K4 P-Q4 174-P-K4 P-Q4 175-P-K4 P-Q4 176-P-K4 P-Q4 177-P-K4 P-Q4 178-P-K4 P-Q4 179-P-K4 P-Q4 180-P-K4 P-Q4 181-P-K4 P-Q4 182-P-K4 P-Q4 183-P-K4 P-Q4 184-P-K4 P-Q4 185-P-K4 P-Q4 186-P-K4 P-Q4 187-P-K4 P-Q4 188-P-K4 P-Q4 189-P-K4 P-Q4 190-P-K4 P-Q4 191-P-K4 P-Q4 192-P-K4 P-Q4 193-P-K4 P-Q4 194-P-K4 P-Q4 195-P-K4 P-Q4 196-P-K4 P-Q4 197-P-K4 P-Q4 198-P-K4 P-Q4 199-P-K4 P-Q4 200-P-K4 P-Q4 201-P-K4 P-Q4 202-P-K4 P-Q4 203-P-K4 P-Q4 204-P-K4 P-Q4 205-P-K4 P-Q4 206-P-K4 P-Q4 207-P-K4 P-Q4 208-P-K4 P-Q4 209-P-K4 P-Q4 210-P-K4 P-Q4 211-P-K4 P-Q4 212-P-K4 P-Q4 213-P-K4 P-Q4 214-P-K4 P-Q4 215-P-K4 P-Q4 216-P-K4 P-Q4 217-P-K4 P-Q4 218-P-K4 P-Q4 219-P-K4 P-Q4 220-P-K4 P-Q4 221-P-K4 P-Q4 222-P-K4 P-Q4 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Fred Emery

# Don't shout appeasement too soon

The natural compulsion to say "never again" to a replay of Berlin 1936, the appeasement of Munich 1938 and the inevitable war, has got a hold of political passions this week. And it is perplexing people in and out of Westminster. Determination is overwhelmingly directed against the Russians but, in its way, the same attitude has been affecting the steel strike, although whether that is now changing we shall see.

This is not simply the refuge of right-wing Tories, let us be clear about that. Regarding Afghanistan and now Yugoslavia, MPs of all parties are speaking out, as is the Cabinet. The basic intractable question of what action could be effective as a deterrent to further Russian action is left for later. But in the meantime, the apparent belief is that in psychological warfare words can at times speak as loudly as actions—which in any case take time to get organized.

So the Cabinet, in rather un-British fashion, has an urge to be heard saying that we cannot just stand there, we must do something, anything. Hence the announced decision to try to get the Olympics moved from Moscow; and the official encouragement to encourage our EEC partners for being craven in not supporting us.

This springs from another, more characteristically British, attitude of taking the lead, or at least boldly speaking our part in the Anglo-American special relationship.

Already some roles are being reversed. Conservatives like Mr Ray Whitney, MP for Wycombe, who

thought they were hawks for their long held vigilance against the Soviet menace, now find they are being out-taken on the outside by men usually thought of as moderates. Insults are not far away, for those suggesting that we might hold on a bit. The *Times* upbraids EEC leaders for being "bloody wet"—while *The Guardian* which has been calling for effective action rather than words is accused in its own letter columns of being the appeaser.

Clearly it is going to take some bold men to speak against this tide. There is one MP, the maverick Ulsterman, Mr James Kilfedder, MP for Down North, who has put down a motion deploring attempts to move the Olympics. Perhaps more challengingly, the former Conservative minister, Mr Terence Higgins, MP for Worthing, has reminded the Prime Minister how counterproductive her campaign will seem if the Government is rebuffed by athletes going to Moscow anyway.

At present, this does not seem to impress ministers. Ideally they would like to see the summer Olympics cancelled altogether this year. But in the immediate sense, they nurture the hope that the threat of the United States-British led lobby to switch the venue might just might, give the Russians pause over Afghanistan, perhaps even leading them to withdraw some troops. If it does not and the Moscow Olympics go ahead anyway, well, British ministers at least will not be among the spectators there.

Now there are some in the Tory party who believe that all this pussy-

footing must stop. Again they are not confined to the right wing. Indeed what perhaps most startled right-wingers this week was an urging that the Government encourage the United States to occupy Cuba, as a once-for-all play of removing this Soviet proxy from the world chessboard.

The normally equable Mr Peter Tapsell, MP for Horncastle, who was in Mrs Thatcher's opposition frontbench team as both Treasury and Foreign Affairs spokesman, unleashed this proposal at a private meeting of the Conservative Foreign Affairs committee last Tuesday. His belief is that Afghanistan is the equivalent of Poland 1939, and that the Russians—even if this was not their opening move in a masterplan to take the Middle East—will proceed against another target (most likely Oman) if the West stands idly by.

The Russians should be told to withdraw from Afghanistan or else—their else being the opportunity, as he sees it, to remove Cuba's meddling around the world at a stroke. The third world he believes, would applaud after the act; whether the Third World War would arouse the same applause is unclear. Now there is at present nowhere any hint that the Government takes such ideas seriously however much some Cabinet ministers might sympathize with Mr Tapsell. Perhaps Mrs Thatcher or Lord Carrington can remind us in the foreign affairs debates on Monday week.

After that, how very undramatic to turn to the steel strike. But there, too, the Government, or some of its

ministers, have been straining to resist, say, sign of appeasement. Now I venture, that in the agreement for miners openly to meet the striking union leaders there is a policy shift, call it a sensible course change to meet a worsening sea, or a welcome abandonment of the worry about losing face.

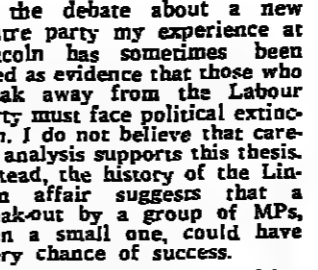
It is clear that Mr James Prior, Secretary for Employment, is going to have to use the traditional mediatory role of his office to get a settlement.

Of course, the posture will be maintained that the Government is not actually getting involved in pay negotiations. Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary, will see that by his presence at Mr Prior's meetings. But the Cabinet's clear hope is that some time by midweek a bit more money for the steelmen will bring a settlement. The desire—for all Sir Keith's unanswerable argument in the Commons debate against paying "regardless"—is to avert catastrophe for the whole of British industry.

Productivity agreements will be sought with the realization that it is how they work not how the 'x's are crossed and 'i's dotted that counts. Possibly the drastic British Steel plant closures and layoffs will be suspended for a while.

At all events, there is a new mood that this has been a tragically unnecessary strike, that a political confrontation must be averted, that even a meeting between union leaders and Mrs Thatcher, although purely symbolic, is unnecessary. It may not work but let no one shout appeasement too soon.

# 1984: the year Labour's break-away could work



Mr Dick Taverner: an earlier break-away.

In the debate about a new centre party my experience at Lincoln has sometimes been cited as evidence that those who break away from the Labour Party must face political extinction. I do not believe that careful analysis supports this. Instead, the history of the Lincoln affair suggests that a break-out by a group of MPs, even a small one, could have every chance of success.

First, it is worth recalling that when I resigned to fight a by-election as an independent Labour candidate very few thought I could win. Even those few were certain I would lose in the subsequent general election. In fact, I won the by-election with a large majority, retained the seat in the first General Election of 1974 and lost it in the second by 900 votes. Compared with the original predictions, what is surprising is not how badly we did but how well.

Of course the circumstances were exceptional. The issue which dominated the by-election was the personal position of a Member of Parliament. It is to be a puppet of his constituency activists? Is he a delegate or a Burkean representative? The final break with my local party came when I was told by my management committee that if I voted for entry into the European Community against a party three line whip they would vote me out. I did and they did. Whatever the issue, there is bound to be public sympathy for an individual who cocks a snook at the party machine.

There was more at stake however, than the role of an MP. From the start I raised the banner of the need for a realignment in British politics; and it was clear from many hundreds of letters and generous contributions from all over the country, that a realignment against the dominance of the major parties was a powerful cause.

Our own association in Lincoln could not have been built up solely by our own efforts. We set up a headquarters and founded an organization which was for the election as strong as those of our rivals, which won the local elections in 1973 and again as late as 1976 and is still represented on the council. We were enabled to do so because of many thoughtful people, some of whom I might be a catalyst towards wider change.

Indeed, one mistake we made was to let success go to our heads. I formed a national organization, the Campaign for Social Democracy, and we con-



Mr Dick Taverner: an earlier break-away.

tested four other seats at the General Election of February, 1974. It was a rash, premature and hopeless venture. Without the support of any other public figure from the Labour Party we had no credibility; our candidates made no impact; all four lost their deposits.

However, our own mistakes were only marginal to my eventual defeat. The main reason for this was obvious, that in a General Election I had always accepted that in the longer term my survival would depend on the emergence of a political realignment. Our canvassers met numerous voters who expressed personal good wishes, but felt, quite logically, that they should vote to choose a government. In particular, there was the enormous disadvantage—which I experienced daily during both general elections—that my arguments were submerged by the all-important debates and discussions on television.

Our meetings, which were well attended, and our canvassers, who were many and enthusiastic, were no substitute. The lessons of Lincoln are, I believe, threefold: First, that raising finance is much less of an obstacle to success than is generally thought. Lack of money played a minor part. If any, in my loss of the seat. How much better must be

the prospects of adequate funding for a group of MPs, even one of modest size, with a prominent figure like Mr Roy Jenkins at its head.

Secondly, if I survived one general election virtually alone and lost a second only by a narrow margin, how much better must be the prospects of a group contesting a whole string of seats. The very fact of a significant break-away would also bring home to the public the changed, more extremist, nature of the Labour Party and the more left wing it is seen to be, the more brittle will be its support.

Thirdly, vital to success would be an electoral pact with the Liberals—a preliminary alliance that could lead in time to a full merger. No doubt some purists from both sides would resist an alliance because they regard themselves as the only true champions of the cause of conscience and reform. But there must be reasonable hopes that a broader view will prevail. A conflict between social democracy and Liberalism would be mutually destructive. An alliance would make them both central to the arguments about the future shape of government and would ensure full coverage on television.

One final thought: it is too early to judge whether there will be a break-away. But if there is, it could find a fair wind in its sails. I base this judgement less on the recent opinion polls about new political centres, which are highly encouraging but also contradictory, than on recent political history. Every British government faces ever more difficult problems.

What are the merits or demerits, Mrs Thatcher's Government can expect a prolonged period of unpopularity and may end up more unpopular in 1984 than Mr Heath's was in 1974. At the same time, the Labour Party will, it seems, fight the next election on a manifesto even more left wing and ill designed for our predicament than in February 1974. The Liberals won 20 per cent of the vote in February 1974. They are stronger now in terms of seats, councillors and organization. It is therefore not unreasonable to suppose that an alliance of Liberals and social democrats fighting side by side could make an impact in 1984 far greater than the Liberal alone made in 1974 and that the electoral obstacles against third parties could be swept aside.

Dick Taverner

## Alistair Cooke assesses the players starting the 1980 season



Jack Nicklaus: Athlete of the Decade.

# Jack Nicklaus, the last of the golf heroes?

The 1980 American golf season has just opened with the usual circus of the Bob Hope Desert Classic, in which stand-up comics, movie and television stars, and at least one presidential "personality" slapped down \$1,000 or so for the privilege of hacking, or clowning around with the great men of the game.

This is the way it has been for several years, and this is the way it is going to be. For golf tournaments that are nothing but jousts between the professionals do not draw enough television viewers to relieve the sponsors of their chronic misgivings about golf as a television show. Golf has always been a waste of the list of mass-audience grabbers: basketball and American football are at the top, followed by baseball, boxing, racing and lately tennis. All of them require little more equipment than two cameras with zoom lenses.

Golf calls for television towers, many fixed and roving cameras, and miles of cables. Last year, for reasons that people are content to stab at (the rare, and disappointing, appearances of Jack Nicklaus, the cloning of many indistinguishable blonde players), the television audience for golf slumped by nearly 30 per cent.

To the television networks, the answer was plain: golf must move farther from golf and closer to showbiz. Hence, during the first month or two of the tour, when the norm is still the front north, and the pros "follow the sun" from California to Arizona to Hawaii, back to the south-west and on to Florida, the old tournaments are barely recognizable by their original names: The Phoenix Open, the Los Angeles Open, the Inverrary. They are the Andy Williams, the Glen Campbell, the Jackie Gleason.

This is not to say that these "celebrity" tournaments, in which crooners, actors and assorted funny men lash around in quaint get-ups as thousands giggle, are always an expense of how high the showbiz. Some of the early tournaments are so venerable in prestige and played on courses so testing (the Crosby at Pebble Beach, the Los Angeles Open at Riviera) that the pros must seal lips through the three days of high jinks and then battle it out among themselves on the final day. A winner at Pebble Beach or Riviera is always to be reckoned with.

But by the end of March, we begin to know the names of the new boys who will come to prove that they have more to offer than a winter hot-streak. Augusta, Georgia, is the proving ground, and the winner of the Masters is always considered, if not as the heir

apparent, at least as a pretender to the throne. Last year, Fuzzy Zoeller made it on his first attempt. He is a droll, droopy-lidded fellow, a sort of loose-limbed Robert Mitchum, with a deceptively carefree swing. He is also competitor, and more will be heard from him. But his performance at the Masters, and in the later tournaments, does not suggest that he is measurably better than a half-dozen others who in the past two years have taken hold of the tour and hit the big money: notably, Larry Nelson, Andy Bean, Bill Rogers.

Behind them is a heap of first-rate youngsters almost certainly better than the tour regulars in the heyday of Byron Nelson, Sam Snead, Hogan or Palmer. The packs that they broke away from were more often than not former caddies, or the sons of old pros, or club professionals with a little extra competitive bite. Indeed, the stars themselves were usually recruited from the caddy shed. All that is now part of American folklore, as quaint and dated as the rule of American politics that a Governor's mansion is the only true breeding-ground

of Presidents, never the Senate. The new men are the product of golf scholarships at universities—most of all of the University of Houston—at which the "student" goes to the practice tee at dawn of his first day, hits 500 balls a day under supervision, and emerges four years later, at sunset of his graduation day, with a grooved swing, a tiger's appetite for slaughter and a BBA degree (Bachelor of Business Management). The degrees will not only come in handy, it will be the essential tool for negotiating contracts with the manufacturers of sweaters, lawn mowers, golf clubs and balls, and automobile tyres (it is the grip). Tom Watson regularly assures us on television, that makes his tyre superior to all others.

The college graduate now goes off to West Palm Beach to spend two weeks polishing up the rules and niceties of the game and competing for his Professional Golfer's Association card. So tough is the present standard of the PGA school that the college boy who prefers to remain an amateur for a year or two can have a horrendous time earning his card. John Fought, a

splendid player, Walker Cup hero and winner of the United States Amateur by seven strokes, managed to get his card only on the third try. (Last year, after trailing as an anonymous rabbit through many tournaments, he thought of giving up the professional game. Then he suddenly erupted and won two tournaments in succession. He too would seem to have the bit between his teeth.)

This historic change in the rearing of the American golf professional is the reason why we appear less likely, from now on, to see one or two commanding figures ahead of a troop of competent pros. By the same token, the general audience for televised golf is likely to shrink to the hardcore golfing maniacs (of whom, however, there are 11 million in the United States, 5 per cent of whom regularly break 95). For, during the past two decades, the television audience fattened not on golf but on heroes. It was Arnold Palmer, coming along in the earliest days of television, who by his person not his game captivated a public that wouldn't know a mid-iron from a midwife, just as Gary Cooper captivated a public that

wouldn't know a saddle-girth from a saddle-shoe.

As Palmer began to fade, not in charm but in skill, there were two or three other great ones, or near-great ones, who seemed to be stamped from no mould: post-war, with his benign, unfurled play; Snead, with his ravishing swing, his straw hat and his salty asides; Gary Player, the Colonial badger, at everybody's heels.

Then, dogging them and gradually overtaking them was an unlikely candidate for stardom, a building Othello with a bay window, bulbous eyes and the crew cut of a prison yard. Not by a miracle, or a transplant, but by an effort of will that he was a winner. He was, at last, a magnetic character, this same "Fatso" (as he was called) grew slim and beautiful just as his talent came to be recognized as the supreme one of his time, quite probably of all time. The achievement of Nicklaus has been measured many ways. The ability to fight and beat the weather and the field. His relish, in the major tournaments, for needing two birdies and a par to win just when a couple of veterans were at their best, and some newcomers were headstrong. The miracle round of his career. His sustained competitive force in the majors, most remarkably in the British Open and the Masters.

But what has elevated him over the earlier kings, and his own contemporaries, is his dominance of the game for the longest time. Jones was the man to beat for, say, six years. Hogan (giving him the benefit of the long layoff after his accident) five years. The Age of Nicklaus began, no question, in 1964 (though he won his first major in 1960) and continued through 1978. For 14 years, he was the acknowledged master.

Now, there is Watson. Or, is there? He is probably one of the top 15 competitive players of the past 20 years. For the last three years, he has headed the money list. So far he has won three majors. He has 11 majors and 14 more to go to match Nicklaus. In the next year or two, we shall know whether he is, not just the best over a four-year span, but the best of the masters. If he goes on winning for a few more years, against the incomparably tough field of today, he will join the half-dozen or so best golfers of all time. But the professional machine and its prodigious against him.

The sports writers of America, at the end of 1979, chose Nicklaus as the Athlete of the Decade. It will be a day to remember it, in December, 1989, the Athlete of the Eighties is another golfer.

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## A chance to save the otter

reational purposes causes acute disturbance, and the resulting treeless banks and straightened waterways provide otters with few holts (breeding sites) and little shelter.

The second report mentions a new threat to otters from oil spills, such as that which occurred at Stromboli in the Shetland Islands in December 1978. At least 14 otters are known to have been killed, and a further 18 were seen oiled, but alive.

Conservation measures taken since publication of the first report have not been enough to halt the otter's decline. This is partly because the seriousness of the position has not been fully appreciated, and because the current level of expenditure is unrealistically low in relation to the magnitude and complexity of the task, and partly, due to a basic lack of ecological knowledge about the otter and to inadequate distribution information.

At present priority is being given to attempting to safeguard the remaining otters and their habitats in England and Wales by voluntary cooperation from private riparian owners and by help from government bodies and conservation organizations.

Conservation measures suggested for the future include the construction of artificial holts; the creation of other habitats; the minimization of habitat destruction; site pro-

tection; enlightened river management; and possible translocation.

Otters are now endangered throughout the continent of Europe: saving them from extinction is a problem of international importance. The International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red Data Book of Threatened Mammals classifies the otter as "vulnerable", and it is listed on appendix 1 of the 1977 Washington Convention of International Trade in endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna: the current imposes severe restrictions on trade in it or its products between assenting nations (among them the United Kingdom), and totally bans trade for primarily commercial purposes.

The nominate race is already protected in much of eastern and western Europe, and its protection was extended by Convention at the Council of Europe's third ministerial conference on the environment held in Bern in September. But the current proposal for a new European Wildlife and Countryside Bill (replacing one originally introduced by Lord Skelmersdale) which will provide an opportunity to amend the 1977 Act and extend to the otter the protection in Scotland it is badly needs.

It is hoped that, in recognition of the international importance of the Scottish otter population, and as a first step towards attaining the goal of the order in Britain, Parliament will take advantage of this chance of bringing the country into line with many of our neighbours in continental Europe.

Christopher Lever

## SPORTS DIARY

### South Africa's last gold medals

As the price of gold rises around the world, there are two pieces of this precious mineral that will remain with their South African owners irrespective of how high the market soars. One piece is kept permanently in a Bloemfontein bank and the other lives in a drawing-room cabinet in East London, alongside china oddments and other family knick-knacks.

The gold pieces concerned are the two Olympic gold medals won by South Africa at the 1952 games in Helsinki: the winners were both women and they share the sad distinction of being the last Olympic champions their country will produce for probably a very long time.

backstroke in one minute 14.3 seconds. Mrs Brand's event took place on Sunday, July 27, and the swimming final was four days later. So strictly speaking Mrs Breetzke was the last Springbok Olympic champion.

There was no qualifying competition for the women's high jump at that time and this week Mrs Brand recalled that the event lasted well over five hours. "We were hard at it when the marathon runners set out and nowhere near finished when Zatopek came back to win over two hours later and the stadium went berserk."

Zatopek's victory completed his unique treble of 5,000 and 10,000 metres and marathon victories in the same Olympics for the immortal Czech, whose grinning and lolling head as he ran will never be forgotten by those who saw him.

"We never got round to getting it out." Even her three children, now in their early 20s, only saw the medal for the first time a few months ago when a local newspaper wanted to photograph it.

Mrs Brand's children always preferred swimming to track and field and she used to meet Mrs Breetzke, her fellow Helsinki gold medal winner, each year at the national schools championships, where their children often competed against each other.

Mrs Breetzke was South Africa's first Olympic swimming champion and her team manager reputedly "I don't know if it's anything to do with male pride but he has always claimed since that he tripped over a rope and I have never found out the truth," Mrs Breetzke said.

Two years before Helsinki Mrs Breetzke, then aged 14, won a gold medal at the Empire Games at Auckland in 1950 and she won two more at Vancouver in 1954 before retiring.

"All my medals are in the same cabinet and nobody takes any notice of them. I've four children so they can have one each in due course," she said laughingly. Mrs Brand's gold medal will probably be bequeathed to a South African sportsman, but the Amateur Athletic Union plans to establish.

It had occurred to neither woman that they held a special place in the Olympic story as the last champions from an expelled nation. No gold medals came South Africa's way in 1956 in Melbourne or in 1960 at Rome. South Africa did win a silver medal in Rome when Dan Bekker, now a Pretoria policeman, was beaten by Francesco de Piccoli of Italy in a heavyweight boxing final remembered only because both men were south-pawed. Bekker was knocked out in the first round, an apparently symbolic finish in all ways, perhaps, to South African Olympic participation.

made clear to them that full scale transmissions from Russia would be available. For a sports mad country it is a bitter blow. Negotiations start in February about showing the Lions matches live, but the SABC are not confident as the South African Rugby Board fear the effects on gates at local matches played elsewhere in the country.

In this context the SABC are meeting the same sort of problems with promoters and sporting authorities that the BBC used to do when television first expanded in Britain. The SABC, who launched its television service in January, 1976, also have to contend with strong religious scruples in the Republic which frown on sport being shown on Sundays except live or recorded. Like certain parts of Wales, South African bars, too, do not open on Sundays, one more unexpected facet of this contradictory country for an overseas visitor. There are now about 1,300,000 licensed sets in the Republic which has a population of around 24 million. Peak viewing figures top two million for such programmes as the English cup final.

During each night's five hours of television, the programmes are in Afrikaans the first half of each evening, and in English the second half, and the other way round alternate days. Additionally there is three hours of sport shown on Saturday afternoons. The latest programme analysis available shows that sport with 14 per cent of the transmission time is third in the allocation list behind drama (24 per cent) and documentaries (15 per cent). A second channel for non-whites, using five different languages, is planned by the end of 1981. One policy which this vision won't be financially practicable in Britain, that is advertisement interruption is only allowed on complete programmes. If a play lasts two hours, the sponsor has to wait.

### Jody Scheckter's triumph

A sporting event the SABC will definitely be showing live this year will be the South African motor racing grand prix on March 1 at the Kyalami circuit between Johannesburg and Pretoria when the who's who is waiting to acknowledge Jody Scheckter, one of the few world champions. Despite South Africa's fuel crisis, thousands of enthusiasts from all parts of the

country are expected to drive hundreds of miles to attend with the attendance expected to reach the 100,000 mark reached before petrol became scarce. A new Jody Scheckter stand capable of seating 14,000 near the end of the main straight will be opened by the world champion.

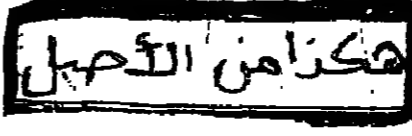
Scheckter is president of the Drivers' Association and wages many battles over safety improvements with circuit owners but has no complaints about the Kyalami track other than a few minor matters. Scheckter is telling an almost unbelievable story about the poor condition the Buenos Aires track used in last weekend's Argentine grand prix and is swearing it is true. During a practice session one of his Ferrari mechanics saw a rabbit fail to get a grip on the melting, crumbling tarmac as the poor animal darted across the circuit. The rabbit, it seems, spun round and in its confusion returned to the same side from which it had emerged. If that launches a wave of shaggy rabbit stories my apologies. This week the Kyalami circuit was purchased by an international consortium from the South African Motor Racing Club for a rumoured £500,000 which is roughly what it is

hoped ticket sales will reach. The money involved in all aspects for what is barely a two-hour event is enormous as the Formula One grand prix circuit with only one race it pay for the airlift of the car.

### Car for a six

Still with cars, imagine a Dai su being hoisted onto the roof of the Lord's pavilion and being won by any batsman whose stroke could hit the vehicle. A cricket equivalent of those huge prizes involving homes and cars being won these days by golfers who hole in one. Even Facker need thought of this cricket and car possibility but it will operate next cricket season in South Africa at the beautiful Newlands ground.

Richard Streeton





New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### AT THE TURN OF THE TIDE

Taking leave of the press a few days before taking leave of the see of Canterbury, Dr Donald Coggan spoke of two disappointments of his primacy, the lack of progress towards union between the Anglican and Free Churches and the rejection for the time being of ordination of women in the Church of England. Both issues are bogged down in the recesses of synodical government, and both are ones to which Dr Coggan has a strong personal attachment. There have been other disappointments too, though he might not be so ready to admit to them.

There was the mixed reception and modest impact of his one venture into religious populism: his call to the people in October 1975 to consider the nation's moral and spiritual condition by reference to two questions, "What sort of society do we want? What sort of people do we need to be in order to create it?" His encouragement to discussion in small groups meeting in pubs, clubs and parlours; and his open invitation to write to him about it. And there was the lack of response he received from Pope Paul VI and from Cardinal Hume when he proposed with unmistakable depth of emotion that members of the two churches should embark on reciprocal communion.

Those two initiatives exemplify both the qualities that have been so admirable in Dr Coggan as Archbishop of Canterbury and the qualities that have hampered his personal efforts. He is seen as a good man of scholarly

background and simple faith, whose trust in God causes him to put trust in men, and possessed of a generous impulse to make good use of the opportunities presented by high office. He is seen too as a man without a strong public personality to give extra range to his words, and not well armed with the worldly prudence to judge aright the context of his initiatives either by instinct or by taking sound advice. "It is not of the genius of Anglicanism to have at its head someone who is papal or patriarchal", he told the Lambeth conference over which he presided in 1978. He was thinking of the institution rather than the man, but it may have been a not wholly unintended comment on his own stewardship.

During the five years of Dr Coggan's primacy the Church of England has carried forward its self-inflicted liturgical reform and precipitated a crisis reaction from within and from that large penumbra of the well disposed who are not exactly inside or outside. It has loosened its establishment belt a little by wresting from the state all but a vestige of control over episcopal appointments—and it has not succeeded in moving in the opposite direction by making itself beholden to the state for money to repair churches, much as Dr Coggan would have liked that to have happened so as to enable the church to apply less of its resources to stones and more to souls.

On the vexed question of female ordination the Church of England has held to the position of exclusion without provoking

serious ecclesiastical disorder yet, and the wider Anglican communion has digested contradictory practices by an agreement temporarily to differ. On the matter of Christian unity the Church of England has lost none of its warmth, nor has it become conspicuously more ready to make concessions in the area of faith and order, so that the rolling of the ecumenical wagon has become sticky, if not stuck. As the five years of the primacy end there are signs that the statistical tide may be turning and that such indicators as ordinations, baptisms and church attendances may be beginning to point upwards.

Important as some of these matters are none of them goes to the heart of the church's mission. When about to enter into the see of Canterbury Dr Coggan said that during his time there "I hope and long to see a recovery of confidence" within the Church of England, an accession of Christian hope (which is a very different thing from secular optimism). He would be justified in thinking that he has not been altogether denied that wish. There is no means of measurement, but there are indications enough that the Christian religion impinges on the private and public lives of the people of this country now as much as it did then, and that they are more not less receptive to the spiritual truths the church teaches and the graces it mediates. That the Church of England is in a fair state to respond to the new challenge is much to the credit of its retiring Archbishop of Canterbury.

### Archbishop versus Mammon

From Mr A. Arnold Thomas

Sir, It is regrettable that Budget Day has been chosen to clash with the Archbishop of Canterbury's enthronement. The enthronement is doubly the prior appointment.

It was arranged first, and for this reason alone commands the prior attention of the nation, and of those who individually will be concerned both with the enthronement and with the Budget.

More importantly, whereas the Budget is to do with Mammon the enthronement is to do with God. The importance of the Budget, though real, is temporal. The importance of the enthronement of the Archbishop is of quite a different order. It is to do with one of the ways in which we can approach the absolute truth, love and guidance of Almighty God, whose help Mammon badly needs.

Budget day should be changed. Yours faithfully, A. ARNOLD THOMAS, The Old Rectory, York.

From the Reverend Colin Davison  
Sir, Whatever reasons Norman St John-Stevens may or may not give for the clash between the timing of the Budget and the Archbishop of Canterbury's enthronement, the processes which led up to it and the significance of the clash must give churchmen pause.

By putting our political leaders in the position of having to be absent from the enthronement, however regrettable, the notion is reinforced that the enthronement is a purely private affair and unconnected with national life. If it was not so private it would have been in the Church's diary.

In effect, the Established Church is fast becoming a sect and consequently rendering itself incapable of providing religious leadership for the nation. The fact that the Budget can be celebrated without any apparent awareness of the enthronement testifies to this. It also signifies that the church is regarded by the establishment as irrelevant to the nation's economic problems, but perhaps, as you suggested in your article (Budget Day, January 2), our national problem is not really economic but a lack of vision.

The failure of the church lies in making available to the nation sufficiently potent symbols to promote such vision. Maybe at the end of the day the sort of Archbishop we enthroned and the religious leadership he can provide will be seen to be an even more fundamental concern than the level of income tax.

Yours faithfully, COLIN DAVISON, The Grubb Institute, Cloudeley Street, N1.

The price of gas  
From Professor N. Kurti, FRSE  
Sir, Your leading article (January 16) says that there is no rational reason why gas consumers should pay less for their energy than electricity consumers. There is at least one good reason: there are two different kinds of energy.

In the present state of technology it takes 2-3 times as much fuel (gas, oil, coal) to generate "electrical" energy as to produce "heat" energy. To use electricity as the main source of domestic heat—except by night storage based on surplus generating capacity or by heat pumps, if and when they become economically attractive—is somewhat similar to a silversmith's buying silver and turning it into just, meat and poultry before melting it down into ingots for sale.

Yours faithfully, N. KURTI, Department of Engineering Science, University of Oxford, Parks Road, Oxford.

From Mr J. G. Andrews and Mr D. A. C. Nicol  
Sir, For raising energy prices above the rate of inflation we award Mrs Thatcher a lower Second. To get a First she must announce a comprehensive package including tax incentives/grants for energy conservation.

Yours economically, J. G. ANDREWS, D. A. C. NICOL, Troika, Lime Walk, Dimsie Purlies, Southampton.

From Mr Robert Patchett  
Sir, I think I understand—steelworkers should not expect a wage increase in view of BSC losses.

What increase may British Gas employees anticipate? Yours faithfully, ROBERT PATCHETT, The Bungalow, Church Lane, Chilton Campville, Tamworth, Staffordshire.

Liability of unions  
From Mr C. J. B. Bromfield  
Sir, I was surprised to read in your leading article yesterday (January 9) that union concern for their own funds would inhibit the sort of picketing that is to be made illegal in the present Bill.

Unless, Sir, you are assuming that unions will meet awards of damages made against their officials or their members, this cannot be the case. The Trade Union and Labour Relations Act of 1974 reestablished the immunity of trade unions against actions of this kind first conferred on them in 1906 (following the Taff Vale case) but removed by the Industrial Relations Act in 1971.

The Employment Bill does not affect this immunity and it follows that, unless you are making the assumption mentioned above, union funds are not at risk. On the same basis, the only source from which damages awarded can be met is the property of the individual who is acting unlawfully and against whom an award is made by the Court.

Yours faithfully, C. J. B. BROMFIELD, 183 Ladbroke Grove, W10.

### The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan

From Miss Amina Shah Paghmani

Sir, I find it quite impossible to understand why newspapers continually refer to the Afghans as "rebels" or "the Russians" or "the invaders". Were the woad-covered British throwing rocks at the Romans "rebels"?

I pray that a Brigand King like Bacha Saqan, the water-carrier's son, who rose in Kabul in the 30s after Amanullah to become King for six months, may gather the Afghani patriots in the spring and give the Russian invaders a few headaches, as they did when Alexander the Great entered Afghanistan, or Rukhsa Khan, or the British even.

No more rebel Afghani tribesmen please, only brave martyrs. AMINA SHAH PAGHMANI, The Royal Commonwealth Society, Northumberland Avenue, WC2.

From Lord Glendon  
Sir, Would not postponement of the Olympic Games be preferable to cancelling them? In other words, could not the 1980 Games be held, say, in Montreal in 1981?

There is nothing sacrosanct about the four years' interval, which could in any case be reverted to after 1981. Yours faithfully, GLENDON, House of Lords.

From Mr D. Lort-Phillips  
Sir, It seems many these days, among them your correspondents Arthur Latham (January 8) and Mr Ivamy (January 4), chide the West for double standards in this matter.

I think Western leaders should, on the contrary, say loud and clear to the hostile and uncommitted why they regard this action as fundamentally different from interventions they or their allies may have undertaken. Doubtless the reply will be back to the effect, "these differences you claim are based on your own concept of international morality", but the rejoinder should none the less be: "Take your choice

between our standards and those of our opponents. There are no utopian alternatives".

Two features in particular denote Soviet interventions. One is their complete ruthlessness. Not for them a "Bay of Pigs" or the shambles in Saigon. If there is any doubt at all about the local movements being able to cope, and because of its nature there always is, then equipment, aircraft, tanks and all necessary men of the Red Army will pour in until the job is done, and all potential opponents killed. They are particularly careful about that. How lucky Bokassa was to be ousted by a Western coup.

The second distinguishing feature of a Soviet intervention is the contempt for popular support (the Bolshevik Revolution did not need it, after all, so why elsewhere?). Western Governments know that the men they seek to install must subsequently rule with adequate popular support. They know their electorates at home will not let them spend unlimited money supporting unpopular regimes. By contrast the first items of baggage in the Soviet train (unless it is there already waiting) is all the paraphernalia of the police state.

If I was a third world leader trying to decide which of the great powers to seek as protector, I would sum up the odds something like this:

"Give the Soviets what they want and they will back me to the hilt (literally), no matter what I do at home and abroad. That is until my neighbour gives them something they want more. Then they will kill me and give him my country as well, should he want it."

"Give the Americans what they want and they will do their best to protect me. Concessions will, until the next Ayatollah throws me out. Then I have at least an even chance of a quiet retirement."

When the uncommitted come to see it in these terms, the world will be a safer, and somewhat better, place to live in.

Yours sincerely, D. LORT-PHILLIPS, Killybegs, Pembrokeshire.

### Steel misunderstanding

From Mr Denis Delay

Sir, In his recent letter to you (January 11) the British Steel Corporation Chief Executive alleged that a report of a joint trade union/BSC team visit to Japan in 1975 has been suppressed. By the trade union side, with the clear implication that the unions were fearful of having its contents disclosed, and remain in that state.

This allegation was published soon afterwards in the provincial press. In the guise of a statement of fact, yesterday, it was reported in similar terms on the front page of The Times itself. I see now that, in my anxiety not to add fuel to the present conflict that will generate heat without shedding light on it, I was wrong not to have replied immediately to Mr Scholey's letter.

The report, as you rightly say, was drafted by me, on the basis of notes written by most of the other team members. All the members approved the draft, with very minor amendments, as being a fair record of the visit. Copies of the final version were, I know for a fact, circulated to certain senior managers throughout the Corporation.

Some TUC delegations which have since visited Japan were also given copies. At no time, to the very best of my recollection, have any of the trade union members said that the report should be withheld. It is therefore most unreasonable for Mr Scholey to say that the report was "suppressed".

It is true that the trade union members did not accept the Corporation's proposal that the report should be the centrepiece of conferences, either national or regional. This was partly because of the sheer pressure of events, in recent years, which have made great demands on the time of everybody connected with BSC, but mainly because the trade union members felt that it would serve little purpose to submit to the kind of conference which RSC had in mind a document which discussed industrial relations practices in a society so different from our own.

It is interesting and encouraging

### The 1980 gold rush

From Mr B. J. Hop

Sir, Whilst I do not make a habit of writing letters to The Times, I do in fact feel that I should make some observations on the rush to cash in on the high price of gold and silver.

Whilst it is only sensible to sell off scrap metal and odd pieces no longer required, it is pure vandalism to sell for scrap beautiful and sometimes even antique pieces of craftsmanship which cannot be repeated. This I feel epitomises the thoughtless greed of our time and is much to be deplored. We should not exchange our inheritance for a mess of pottage but preserve it for our children.

In the hope of persuading even the greedy to keep these treasures, I would point out that in the years to come they will have greater (rare) value. My message in brief is: Think twice—or even three times—before selling. Yours faithfully, B. J. HOP, 67 Maidstone Road, N11.

From Mr M. B. Senior  
Sir, "Take out the gold earrings", said Aaron, "that your wives and sons and daughters wear, and bring them to me". The people, then, brought him their earrings as he had bidden them, and he melted down what they had given him and cast them into the figure of a calf.

Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose. Yours faithfully, M. B. SENIOR, 39 Beal Road, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire.

From Mr D. K. Mason  
Sir, I was greatly amused last night whilst watching a video tape of the film Goldfinger.

to see that, according to your front page report yesterday, Sir Charles Villiers confirms the wisdom of this when he says: "I am not even mentioning the Japanese steel industry because they are in a class by themselves."

In fact, earlier this year a national conference was held at Redcar, with the full participation of the unions, on the basis of much more relevant information, mainly prepared by BSC itself.

The steel unions take the view, implied in Sir Charles's statement, that comparisons of much more practical and immediate value than similar terms on the front page of The Times itself, are those which are made between British steelworks and the works of our European competitors. Therefore, the unions have participated to the full in very detailed comparison exercises of the kind which have recently been completed under the rigorous and impartial auspices of the National Economic Development Office.

These are now published, and open to the inspection of all. They reflect a favourable light on aspects of the BSC works concerned, as well as drawing attention to shortcomings.

So far as the Japan report is concerned, the trade union members of the team have no objection now, any more than they had in the past, to its being made available to all. Indeed, it has some good things in it, disposing as it does of the two myths that every Japanese steelworker has "a job for life", and that the Japanese trade union movement is based on the principle of "one union for one works".

I have sent a copy of this letter to Mr Scholey, suggesting that in the present climate we should try to resolve by direct discussion any misunderstanding which may remain between us on this matter (and I fully accept that it was more likely to have been misunderstanding than bad faith that led to this correspondence being initiated).

Yours sincerely, D. DELAY, Secretary, Steel Committee, Trades Union Congress, Congress House, Great Russell Street, WC1. January 17.

Whilst taking dinner at the Bank of England, 007 was reminded that at \$30 an ounce gold was a very attractive proposition to would-be smugglers.

I think the film was made in 1965. Yours faithfully, D. K. MASON, PO Box 3784, Doha, State of Qatar, Arabian Gulf.

### Historical documents

From Mr Alan G. Thomas

Sir, Mr Michael Faraday tells me privately that he is hurt by an unintentional implication in my letter (January 4) that he is not concerned about the fate of medieval documents once they have been used for historical research, and assures me that he regards them as being beyond price. Naturally, I accept his assurance and I am sorry that he should have taken my light hearted banter about Mrs Bingley to heart, for I would cause no man pain.

Mr Faraday and I have this in common: we are both sincerely concerned that medieval documents should be preserved, and that if his well intentioned view that documents are overvalued were actually applied and prices drastically reduced, thousands of documents would be destroyed. Some owners would throw documents away, some people would use them as lampshades. Happily, this is now less likely to happen since the rising price of documents will tend to ensure their preservation.

Yours sincerely, ALAN G. THOMAS, 16 Hobury Street, SW10. January 17.

### MPs as their own judges

From Mr Richard Holme

Sir, Your poll (report, January 17) is the tenth since 1974 to have investigated the level of popular support for proportional representation. In all these polls, PR has had majority support among voters of every party with margins ranging from two-to-one to the five-to-one level now shown by you.

But what of MPs? Lord Thorncroft recently maintained that MPs were representative of public opinion. Would a poll conducted today among MPs therefore reveal that they marched in step with their constituents on this vital issue? No, because, despite some honourable exceptions, partisan pressures are too strong for them. What if the poll were private and entirely whip-proof? Regrettably, the answer would still be "No" because many individual MPs would fear that their particular seats would be lost to them with a change in the electoral system.

It means that on this important constitutional question the House of Commons, as presently constituted, is almost incapable of being a disinterested guardian of the public interest. Against every principle of the Common Law, it is a judge in its own cause.

That is why the Campaign for Electoral Reform is demanding a referendum on electoral reform, so that the voters may have a chance to pronounce on the way their representatives are elected. We must all hope that there are enough MPs, recognising their own conflict of interest, who are prepared to let the people speak—and act upon their verdict.

Yours, etc. RICHARD HOLME, Director, National Committee for Electoral Reform, 60 Chandos Place, WC2. January 18.

### Reputation of the dead

From Mrs Hector McNeil

Sir, I have been interested to read recently in The Times two letters (January 5 and December 31) repudiating the attack on Mr Guy Liddell by Mr Mure and heartily endorse all of what these gentlemen say in Mr Liddell's defence, and if Mr Liddell has a widow living, she has my heartfelt sympathy.

Here the adjective "heartfelt" is very personal as, for the past four years, I have had to read and listen to the most libellous attacks on my own dead husband without being able to do anything about it.

Under the laws of this land it is impossible to libel the dead. I have had to read of an American film writer who hinted my husband was a spy; two people wrote a book about my husband and Maclean, in which they said my husband died of drink; one gentleman, who should have known better, said Guy Burgess was his Private Secretary, which he was not; and Mr Boyle, in his recent book, says that the cause of my husband's premature death "Burgess" is a complete lie, because of his association with Guy Burgess, all of which, of course, are lies.

If any of his attackers had gone and read his speeches at the United Nations against Vishinsky during the cold war of the late 1940s they would have known how anti-Russian Hector was. It is all so sad.

Yours sincerely, HECLA MCNEIL, 12 Lochmore House, Cundy Street, SW1. January 5.

### 'Special price' books

From Mr Brian Nicholson

Sir, On December 24 and January 3 you commented unfavourably on our Observer Offers, a business activity in which Times Newspapers Limited are also engaged. I followed this up with a letter, from Mrs Revell on January 15 in which she attributed to you "a very real service in exposing The Observer's so-called special offers".

In the publishing business, in spite of taking every possible care, things go wrong from time to time. This happened with our Tolkien Book offer. Both the original notice and the subsequent correction should have made clear that the book was available at bookshops until January 1, 1980, for the same price as our offer, which included postage. Shortly afterwards an arrangement made over a diary which we offered broke down and our genuinely special price was no longer exclusive.

Observer Offers is a serious and, we believe, valuable service to readers. We aim for good value products at the lowest possible price and all our evidence over a number of years is that thousands of our readers appreciate them. Occasionally our products or our prices are too good to be true, and there is a delay in delivery. Occasionally we find they can be obtained elsewhere at a lower price. When things go wrong we apologise and do our utmost to put them right. We remain completely confident that Observer Offers provide good value, quality and desirability for many regular and satisfied readers.

Yours faithfully, BRIAN NICHOLSON, The Observer, 8 St Andrew's Hill, EC4. January 18.

### Turn of the crew

From Mr George Rainbird

Sir, Mr Jeremy Gann's letter (January 17) reminds me of a similar incident many years ago whilst waiting for a long-delayed train at Marks Tey in Essex.

Another delayed train from Colchester to Liverpool Street made an unscheduled stop for signals at the station, and I prepared to jump on. An irate porter rushed up shouting "This train does not stop here"—to which I replied "and I am not getting on" and hopped aboard.

Yours faithfully, GEORGE RAINBIRD, A15 Albany, Piccadilly, W1. January 17.

### A LETHAL FAILURE OF DUTY

Today The Times carries the last instalment of a four-part series on civil defence. It seemed to us an appropriate time to review this largely neglected area of national security as we entered the 1980s, and the uncertainties bred by recent events have reinforced that view. This is not to sound alarmist. Global war remains unlikely—though not inconceivable—because the risk of a nuclear exchange with its awful consequences must persuade nations however powerful, to reject the final option. But we have to defend in order to deter, and civil defence like military defence should be considered in our contingency planning.

The Government are not exactly searching for ways in which to spend public money. An expensive civil defence programme would be difficult to support, politically, and practically. On the other hand Britain at present lags so far behind the rest of Western Europe, let alone the Soviet Union, that a relatively modest injection of funds would not only be justified but could multiply our existing effort. Potentially, millions of lives could be saved by small expenditures on public education and planning.

The most obvious need is for a programme of public education. The image of civil defence in Britain remains quaint and outdated, a hazy distillation of

middle-aged memories and the television persona of Captain Mainwaring. Yet even those who are sufficiently interested to educate themselves receive scant encouragement, with little material for them to read. Other countries persuade members of the public to enlighten themselves on the means of survival in the unlikely event of nuclear attack. In Britain, a Home Office booklet "Protect and Survive" remains unavailable.

A second measure would be an inspection system which could advise and supervise local authorities in their civil defence programmes. At present councils are allowed to decide their own standards, and the result is not surprisingly a wide variation of effort; some authorities do virtually nothing. In the event of war it would be a great mistake to live in Avon, while Somerset and Wiltshire have good civil defence emergency plans; matters of life and death should not depend on county boundaries.

A third, and perhaps the most valuable, would be the organization of a local volunteer force, on either a national or local basis. As we report today, Devon County Council has a 1,000-strong body of emergency volunteers—and a planned strength in time of 4,500. Few counties would have difficulty in attracting "recruits", particularly if a

peacetime role could be found for them, coping with natural disasters in support of the professional emergency services, like the police, the fire brigades and ambulances.

An important function in the event of war would be the care of evacuees—probably on a scale not previously envisaged. Official Government policy in the event of a nuclear attack is to encourage the public to stay where they are. "Stay at home and try" is the message to the big cities. It is more likely that thousands in cities and industrial centres would jump into their cars and head for the supposedly safer havens of the Scottish Highlands, Wales and the West Country where at present there would be little provision for the sudden influx. Government messages urging the "refugees" to stay put would probably have no more effect than the invocations to motorists not to panic during a petrol shortage. There are not even nuclear shelters to persuade them to remain.

If war were to occur, and a major war could happen in the 1980s, the lack of adequate civil defence would be seen as a terrible dereliction of the duty of Government. It is not alarmist to make reasonable preparation. Civil defence does not imply war any more than fire insurance implies arson. The present lack of preparation is a lethal failure of duty.

### THE FLUCTUATING BATTLE AGAINST INFLATION

The Government will wish to take some comfort from the figures for the retail price index published yesterday. The picture of the current rate of inflation that emerges depends as usual somewhat on which figure is chosen as the main indicator of the trend. If one takes, however, the increase in prices as measured by the index for the past six months, expressed as an annual rate, inflation is now on a slow downward trend. It is reasonable to expect the figures to show further falls in the next month or so, if only because the indirect tax increases contained in Sir Geoffrey Howe's first budget will by then fall outside a six month measurement period.

In addition, the continuing strength of sterling in the foreign exchange markets will be exerting a downward pressure on prices. It would be premature and dangerous, however, for the Government to jump from this small comfort to the conclusion that the battle against inflation has a number of disturbing factors at work just below the surface. In the first place, there are some substantial rises in prices and charges in the pipeline

that directly affect the retail price index.

The first of these is the increase in the building societies lending rate from January 1, which itself will have added almost one percentage point to the index. On top of this there are fare increases, substantial increases in the prices charged by the public utilities like gas and electricity, and the prospect of very substantial domestic rate increases in the spring. Further, it remains to be seen what increases in charges will come from the present round of public expenditure cuts being prepared for the financial year 1981-82. On these grounds alone there would almost certainly be some reversal of the improvement in the trend of prices by the middle of the year.

More worrying, however, in a sense for the medium term is the fact that the price performance, although improved, has improved much less than one might have expected in the light of other aspects of the economy. The latest figures for the output of manufacturing industry show that this sector is experiencing near total stagnation. There are widespread reports that individual industries are finding it difficult to put up prices in line

with the increase in their costs. This is confirmed by the wholesale price figures, which show that prices of goods put in to manufacturing industry have in recent months been rising significantly faster than the average price of industry's output. The result is a squeeze on company profits, which will mean a pent up pressure to raise prices as soon as possible.

Above all, the level of wage settlements must be creating inflationary pressure within the economy. It is impossible to predict the average outcome of the present pay round, for the range of settlements is unusually wide and there is much less of a concept of an established "going rate" than has been usual in recent years. In a year of stagnating output, however, average earnings will certainly have risen by more than 15 per cent. The increase in productivity will have been nowhere of that order. It seems that the psychological link in pay settlements between the money demanded and the going rate of inflation has not yet been broken. Unless and until it is the bogey of inflation will remain with us and the Government.

### Medical education

From Professor A. H. Crisp

Sir, London has been recognized as a centre of medical excellence for a long time. Over the centuries, similar centres such as those within the island of Cos, the city of Padua, where Harvey had to go to be trained, and more lately Vienna, have in turn declined. There are now dangers that we are going to hasten this process by ways of task of reorganizing and post-graduate medical education in London, more cost effective in the long run, but at the same time it is important to try and ensure that London's postgraduate medical education retains its position in the world.

For years, large numbers of excellent overseas postgraduate doctors have flocked to London from

developed, developing and impoverished countries to study. In their turn they enrich our academic activities at the time and also thereafter through continued academic links. The more general goodwill that these arrangements have generated is well known and has probably been a great moral asset to Britain. It has given us friends throughout the world.

Now the Government proposes to reduce the budget of medical schools and institutes, taking into account the numbers of overseas postgraduate students. The higher proportion of overseas post-graduates, the smaller the new graduates, and to compensate for this budget and to compensate for the fees of such students should be raised to the astonishing figure of £5,000 per year. This will undoubtedly prevent many such students coming to London, and it may well cripple some of our most famous medical

schools, bringing penury and even bankruptcy. This will downgrade, and damage British medicine in the eyes of the world, as well as having the political effects so cogently identified by Dr W. E. Ormerod in his letter of December 21.

Surely, therefore, the Government should pause and reconsider Britain's moral responsibility before it effectively dismantles irreversibly some of the London medical institutions that are currently making such an enormous contribution in this way. This issue should be quite independent of the great problems of providing medical services to the local populations within London. These are also currently under discussion and, by contrast, are parochial matters.

Yours faithfully, ARTHUR CRISP, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of London, WC1.





## Racing

## Rubstic will be ready for Grand National

It is a long, arduous journey from the little Dorset village of Gramville Wootton to Haydock Park in Lancashire, but when Richard Mitchell, the trainer, comes south tonight, the home man, he will see Blackpool's Golden Mile. Mitchell, who trains five horse, sends Naribini, the stable star, to take on the best of the big-name stable can draw from the north in the Premier Steeplechase. Final at Haydock and this ultra-consistent eight-year-old looks good enough to stand the important prize from under their noses.

Mitchell bought Naribini at a yearling sale in New Zealand, bred gelding vindicated his judgment straight away by winning the best of his quality in the beating of today's main rivals. Dramatic, by three lengths, Naribini then ran down the best of the rest at Kempton Park, but clearly that was nothing more than an off day.

It is a long, arduous journey, but Mitchell is sure that his latest race at Wincanton when he

timised a length and a half pound the Cheltenham Gold Cup hope, Diamond Edge, with the smart Chameleon a well beaten third.

Diamond Edge's trainer, Fuke Walsby, was much more than a little hopeful that the dramatic little horse would reverse the Cheshport placings with Naxbillion and be, of course, the first to do so in a season to know. Dramatist, who won well at Kempton Park in his most recent start, was a good deal more ribald on 7lb better terms than at Cheshport. This, plus the fact that Walsby's stable has only one other horse, a yearling, in the virus is enough to suggest that he will be closer between them than the other two.

Drusus has been favourite for the race since the ante-post books opened; winner of three of his four steeplechase races, he has been a good second twice. Whether he is quite up to beating this class of field and whether he will be the first to do so are questions that only the race can answer, though it will certainly come as no surprise if he wins.

The Irish won the first three runnings of this race at the start

of the seventies but have not fared so well since. They are strongly represented this time by Ardfern and the stable commander, who has won the Ardfern. Ardfern won his Cheltenham qualifier in good style but has fallen in his other two races this season.

Daletta is also a chancy jumper, but his second to Chiturnhall in last year's Arkle Trophy at Cheltenham suggests he has a touch of class. Just Able beat Daletta in the last of his three starts and is 7lb worse off now. Daletta could be best of the Irish and a big chance to make a mark.

Richard Lindley, the rider of Narrinarr, will be hoping to win the other big prize at Haydock, the £100,000 Arkle Trophy. Toby Balding's Sheer Silk, one of several Schwepps Trophy entries which have been sent to the post, is prominently behind Jack O' Lantern at Newbury, but my preference is for another Schwepps hope, the 11-10 favourite, the 10-year-old third to Miss Quivy over this course earlier in the month.

My last pick for the final will be based by today's shorter distance, namely find Tony, who won this race

[illegible]

**One for the road to Cheltenham: Venture to Cognac winning the Sunbury Steeplechase at Kempton Park yesterday**

Rubistic, the Grand National hero, carried top weight of 11 st 7 lb in the Spokestee Handicap Steeplechase at Catterick Bridge yesterday, and trailed in fifth place to Casha. The three and a half mile trip clearly did not suit him and he was ridden by the veteran John Leadbeater, from Hawick, commented "I will have him back in the spring." On March 11, Commence of Rubistic, however, appeared pleased with their horse's display, and easily won the £1000, £200 and £201 for William Hill, who reduced Rubistic's odds to 16-1 for the Liverpool Cup.

Maurice Barnes had Rubistic up with the leader, French Plu, but the latter was too good for Rubistic took up the running, but he began to lose ground sweeping the field and was beaten in the time. He will probably reappear in the Great Yorkshire Steeplechase at Doncaster on March 14. Casha, who provided Arthur Steadman and Ridley Lamb with

their half century of winners last season, snatched into the lead four out to beat Trojan Vale, who was ridden by John O'Neill, who had a spectacular comeback, when he was beaten Mr Match by one and a half lengths in the first division of the race.

Fred Wimer scored with three festival probabilities at Lingfield Park, where he was riding under the Cheltenham assault force and Venture To Cognac was an impressive winner at Kempton Park yesterday.

Other Sherwood sent Venture To Cognac ahead at the eleventh hour, but he was beaten by Sunbury Novices' Steeplechase, they proceeded to best Patzigles in the same style at Luton, and it was doubtful the pair which divided the pair at Ascot last month and Sherwood's gelding was his second winner. "This was a different horse today."

## Catterick Bridge

[illegible]

# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

### Slight dip in inflation brings some cheer for Government

By Caroline Atkinson

A little cheer came for the Government yesterday with the official figures for inflation and industry's output at the end of last year. But the underlying picture is still gloomy.

The annual rate of inflation dipped slightly in December to 17.2 per cent, from 17.4 per cent in November. The underlying rate of inflation, shown by the six-monthly comparison of prices, excluding seasonal foods, also fell from 22.5 to 20.2 per cent at an annual rate. But price rises are virtually certain to accelerate again this year.

Industrial output jumped by more than 1 per cent in November, according to figures published by the Central Statistical Office yesterday. However, this rise merely goes some way to offset earlier falls in output. The underlying trend is of a depressed and sluggish industrial sector, with North Sea oil the one bright spot.

In the three months to November, industry produced 24 per cent less in volume than in the previous three months. The manufacturing sector did even less well, with a drop in output of 31 per cent in the three months.

Yesterday's inflation figures were the first to show a decline in the annual inflation rate since the present government came to power. The monthly rate of 0.7 per cent in December was lower than many financial analysts had been

expecting, and was the lowest monthly increase since November, 1978.

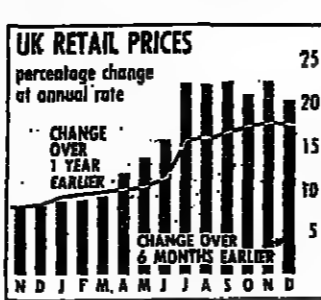
But the improvement in last month's retail prices is bound to prove short-lived. There are many price rises already in the pipeline, such as the sharp increase in mortgages this month. This could add 1 per cent to the Retail Price Index in January, and a further 1 per cent in February. Rail fares have also gone up this month.

The underlying six-monthly inflation figure will, however, improve sharply in January. This is because the effect of the Budget rise in VAT will drop out of the figure. The annual rate will be similarly improved in July.

Other price rises already announced, but not yet hitting the consumer, include the massive rise in electricity increases due in the coming months.

It is also likely that local authority rates will go up substantially in most areas this April, giving another twist to the inflationary spiral.

Two main factors contributed to the slight easing in inflation in December. The beginnings of recession seem to have encouraged firms to hold down their prices in order not to lose their share of declining markets. Recent figures for wholesale prices and for profits suggest that many firms have not fully passed on their increased labour and raw materials costs to consumers.



\* excluding seasonal food.

January is traditionally a month when firms put up their prices, so the monthly price figures could soon take a turn for the worse. There is also a limit to the extent to which firms can go on absorbing higher costs.

Sterling's recent strength is the other moderating influence on prices. The pound is now about 8 per cent stronger against a basket of currencies than it was in early November. This has helped to cut import prices, but it has had little effect on wages bargaining.

As pay rises this year seem set to equal, if not outstrip, those in the 1978-79 pay round, it is doubtful that the Government will have success in bringing down the rate of inflation significantly this year. Most forecasters expect the annual rate to peak at about 20 per cent in the summer.

Yesterday's figures for industrial output suggest that the

underlying level of production was flat during 1979. The latest three months, to November, were depressed because of the engineering strike.

A longer-term comparison shows that output in the non-oil sector, changed little between September-November, 1978, and the same time a year later. Total industrial production, including the oil and gas industry, rose by 2 per cent over the same period, a time of rising consumer demand. Imports rose by 12 per cent in 1979.

Manufacturing industry actually produced 1 per cent less in the three months to November, 1979, than in the same period in 1978.

Strikes and bad weather both played their part in holding down industrial output. Last year, though it was not possible to blame them for all the sluggishness of British industry.

Oil and gas production in the three months to November, 1979, was 35 per cent above its level a year earlier. This sector is responsible for most of the growth in output and rapidly increasing share in total profits in Britain.

Figures which take account of the timing of stocks and delivery changes show that manufacturing output was nearly 4 per cent lower in the third than in the second quarter of 1979, and 2 per cent below the third quarter of 1978.

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### Racal Electronics prepared to pay £60 million as takeover bid for ailing Decca is confirmed

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke

Financial Editor

Takeover discussions between Racal Electronics and Decca have finally been confirmed after a week of heavy speculation in the stock market.

Racal, a post-war success story in British electronics and a leading international maker of land-based military and commercial communications equipment, wants to pay about £60m for Decca, which has fallen on hard times because of a serious collapse in its consumer products business.

Nevertheless Decca remains one of the world's leading innovators and manufacturers of radar and marine navigational equipment. Racal feels that Decca's marine electronics business would be entirely complementary to its own business.

It was Decca and its advisers, County Bank, which decided yesterday that the speculation had gone far enough, and admitted talks between the two had opened after an approach from Racal. Whether there is the basis for an agreement will be decided over the weekend.

Racal is optimistic that it can publish terms of an offer and the agreement of the Decca board, headed by 79-year-old Sir Edward Lewis, early next week. But it was still unclear last night whether Decca welcomes the approach: certainly in the past Sir Edward has firmly turned away all approaches.

This time, however, Racal's timing looks perfect. Decca published interim results yesterday showing attributable losses for the first six months of £3.1m. At the same level last year it lost £5.2m.

These losses are after tax and reflect currency conversion losses and the costs of rationalization. But the underlying situation of the consumer products business has deteriorated alarmingly over the past 18 months with losses of £4.6m before tax and interest.

Borrowings have mounted as Decca supported this situation. Interest payments in the first six months were up by £1.8m to £3.6m.

Decca has taken remedial action. It also published yesterday the complex details of the sale of its recording and music publishing businesses to PolyGram, the recording business jointly owned by Philips of Holland and the West German Siemens group. These terms involve Decca in paying heavy redundancy costs (it has been suggested that up to 1,000 of Decca's 1,200 employees in this area have to go) put at around £2.5m.

Against this, Decca could receive over a period of three years a maximum of £23m from PolyGram. The scale, which is conditional on Decca share approval, involves Decca receiving a maximum of £15.5m and a minimum of £5.5m for the sale of its record catalogue. The sum actually received will largely depend on the performance of sales and the party pressing fees attributable to the Decca



Sir Edward Lewis: Decca's 79-year-old chairman has turned away all previous approaches.



Mr Ernest Harrison: under his chairmanship Racal has achieved phenomenal profits growth.

catalogue over the next three years.

Additionally Decca could receive up to £7.75m for the assets of the Decca Record Company, but again this could depend on a variety of factors, notably the level of recovery from advances to artists.

All this must be of vital concern to Racal. It clearly would not want the music business, nor indeed may it be particularly interested in Decca's television manufacturing activities in the long term. The successful sale to PolyGram, then, is crucial and any offer from Racal would almost certainly insist that it is conditional on the deal being approved by Decca shareholders.

That apart Racal is keenly interested in negotiating agreement to its bid from Decca's board, particularly from Sir Edward Lewis, who with trusts including those in Switzerland could muster around 18 per cent of the voting power in Decca. Decca remains one of the few large British companies with a substantial non-voting capital, and has in the past resisted pressure to enfranchise.

Indications last night were that Racal was optimistic that at this stage Sir Edward would agree to a bid going in, but that the price remained very much in the air. Racal is naturally keen to pay a price which it feels reflects Decca's substantial problems.

Decca in turn may argue that the recovery potential and its worldwide position in marine electronics and radar has to be fully recognized. By last night Decca's shares at 345p for the ordinary and 305p for the "A" were in line with the sort of price Racal would like to pay. The likely bid for Decca follows the loss of independence of another famous British elec-

tronics and music publishing company, EMI, which was taken over by Thorn last year. The sort of rationalization which is taking place in electronics is the result of careful thinking within the industry and by Whitehall during the period of the last Government. Two years ago it looked as though moves of this sort would be inspired and involve participation by the National Enterprise Board.

Racal, a 30-year-old company whose chairman is Mr Ernest Harrison, has made no secret of its long-term ambitions. Having achieved phenomenal profits growth over the past decade (at one point compound profits growth of around 40 per cent was being returned year after year) it decided that the next stage should be through acquisition.

It took over the Milgo company in the United States, a specialist in data transmission, and recently asked about the possibility of buying Decca and even Plessey, which has a major position as a supplier of Post Office communications equipment.

The Decca Gramophone Company was floated in 1928 and bought by Sir Edward Lewis, then a City stockbroker, the following year.

Decca and EMI, emerged as the only survivors in the British recording industry of the mid-1930s slump. Decca had made a number of acquisitions along the way. One was Brunswick, and with it came Mr Harvey Schwarz and his brilliant and revolutionary ideas for radar.

Decca-based systems were used operationally to cover the D-day landings in 1944 and the Decca Navigator Company was set up the following year. Since then, against international competition, Decca has maintained an important role in the international market for navigational aids.

### Iran wins point in battle over \$50m deposits

By Ronald Pullen

Banking Correspondent

As the allies of the United States debate how best to impose economic sanctions on Iran, Bank Markazi, the Iranian central bank, has won a temporary technical point in its battle for the return of \$50m (about £25m) deposited with the Paris branch of Citibank, one of the big United States banks.

The Paris court ruled in December that it could not make a summary ruling on the claim.

Meanwhile, the next step in Bank Markazi's legal manoeuvres in London for the return of more than \$3,000m (about £1,500m) deposited in the London branches of at least five United States banks is expected in early February, when the banks will make their deposition for the defence in reply to Bank Markazi's writs.

Later in March Bank Markazi should be replying to Chase Manhattan's court action in the United States to prevent the Iranian central bank suing it in courts outside that country.

French law, he served without a court order.

Citibank, which last night dismissed the move as a "procedural" step, has applied to the Paris civil court to have the order lifted, and a ruling is expected on Monday.

Bank Markazi's substantive claim against Citibank is still expected to take much longer before a final decision is made. The Paris court ruled in December that it could not make a summary ruling on the claim.

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### Ratepayers' need for more details on spending

By Adrienne Gleeson

Local authorities should make it much easier for ratepayers to gain access to information about their income and spending, according to the Institute of Chartered Accountants who say that the rate demand should contain a budget, showing what the local authority expects to spend, and how the money is to be raised, in the coming year.

In addition, the rate demand should show the previous year's budget, and amounts the authority estimates it has in fact spent and received during the year. Any significant differences should be explained.

Moreover, the accountants say that the local authorities should produce annual abstracts of their accounts, again with a commentary on the figures. This abstract and the accompanying commentary should, they say, be prominently advertised in the local press.

These recommendations come in a memorandum from the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to the Department of the Environment, in response to the Green Paper, "Publication of Financial and Other Information by Local Authorities", published by the Department of the Environment in October, 1979.

Ratepayers should be provided with this information to make them more aware of the performance of their councils and to check on whether its costs are reasonable. Information should be disseminated more widely to enable ratepayers to take action which will influence future policy, the institute says.

Information on councils' planned capital expenditure should also be published, together with estimates of revenue, expenditure and manpower consequences. There should also be clear information about cash balances and reserves, and their effect on the rates.

### Treasury to offer new £1,800m issues

By John Whitmore

Financial Correspondent

The Bank of England announced yesterday that it is to continue the Government's funding programme by the issue of two new gilt-edged stocks with a combined nominal value of £1,800m. Both stocks are being issued in partly-paid form, with the idea of spreading receipts from the stock sales over the February and March banking months.

The new short-dated issue is £800m nominal of Exchequer 13½ per cent, 1983. The stock is being offered for sale by tender next Wednesday at a minimum price of 95.75 per cent.

At this level the flat yield is 13.95 per cent and the gross redemption yield 14.65 per cent. Subscribers for the stock will be required to pay £60 per cent on application and the balance on February 29.

The long-dated stock is a further £1,000m tranches of Treasury 12½ per cent, 2003/05. This stock, too, is being offered for sale by tender next Wednesday, the minimum price having been fixed at 91.50 per cent to give a flat yield of 13.65 per cent and a gross redemption yield of 13.70 per cent. The stock is payable as to £25 per cent on application, £45 per cent on February 15 and the balance on March 14.

The initial response in the gilt-edged market yesterday afternoon was to regard the long-dated stock as the more attractive proposition. Although the process of sale by tender considerably reduces the scope for speculators to make profits

in a rising market, the fact that the stock will have more than three weeks to run in £25 paid form could still attract considerable speculative interest if the market continues in an optimistic mood next week.

Clearly, however, investors will be swayed by any new developments over the next few days on either the national or international fronts. On the domestic front the steel strike remains a source of uncertainty, while, in addition to the political problems overseas, there were signs yesterday that United States interest rates could rise again before moving into any stronger downward phase.

The performance of the gilt-edged market over the past 10 days has, however, shown that institutional investors are convinced that interest rates will fall this year and that they are prepared to be long on the gilt-edged market on a long-term basis.

Where the new stocks to be fully subscribed next Wednesday, or at least exhausted over the next couple of weeks, proceeds for the Government would amount to nearly £1,200m in the February banking month and just over £500m in the March banking month. The effects of these sales on money supply growth will depend on the extent to which the stocks are purchased by the non-bank private sector.

Although scheduled debt sales now seem adequate to cover the February banking month, further debt issues will probably be necessary to cover the remaining two months of the financial year, which runs to mid-April.

### GNP points to growth in US economy

From Frank Vogl

Washington, Jan 18

The American economy continues to show stronger real growth than most economists have been predicting. This was underlined today by new gross national product figures. At the same time a strengthening of general credit demand led the First National Bank of Chicago to increase its prime commercial lending rate to 15½ per cent from 15 per cent.

This bank moved down to 15 per cent in mid-December, while most others held to the 15½ per cent rate. The strength of business loan demand is surprising some bankers and could soon lead to some general gains in short-term interest rates.

The Department of Commerce announced that preliminary data showed that real gnp rose in 1979, an annual, seasonally adjusted rate of 1.4 per cent in the final 1979 quarter, after a gain of 3.1 per cent in the previous quarter. Many economists were predicting a sharper decline just a couple of months ago.

The United States gnp rose in real terms by 2.3 per cent and 11.3 per cent in nominal terms to \$2,368,500m (£1,052,666m).

The commerce department noted that there was barely any change in the inflation rate with the fixed-weight index of prices in the gnp statistics, showing an annual rate of gain of 9.9 per cent in the last quarter, after a gain of 10 per cent in the previous three months.

Mr David Woolford, assistant vice-president for business

research at the First National Bank of Chicago, noted that there was a significant decline in all forms of credit demands in January compared with December rates, but so far this month the decline appears less than in past years.

While demand for new cars and houses is very weak, most other sectors of the economy appear to be showing considerable strength. All the same Dr Courtney Slater, the Department of Commerce's chief economist, said he expects a moderate downturn to begin in the present quarter.

Dr Slater said she expected inflation to moderate this year. The consumer price index would possibly record a 10 per cent gain, after a 1979 gain of around 13 per cent. Dr Slater also predicted the United States current account balance of payments was likely to be roughly in balance for both 1979 and 1980.

In common with the majority of United States economists, she is predicting that a mild recession will start immediately. However, if the business loan demand figures are any guide then, once again there is a chance that the economy will manage to grow faster than the experts suggest. In this case some increases in interest rates are likely.

Meanwhile the Federal Reserve Board is unlikely to change its fairly tight credit stance. The monetary aggregates are showing mixed results, with the M1 figures now showing very slow growth indeed, while bank reserves appear to be expanding, possibly at a slightly faster rate than the Fed would like.

Mr Enoch Powell, MP for South Down told a meeting of the Northern branch of the Institute of Directors yesterday, that if the Government wanted to halt inflation, all it had to do was to cut its borrowing requirement by the best part of £10,000m, sit tight and wait. If it did this "no power on earth" could then prevent inflation from falling over the next two or three years to around zero. He warned against camouflaging the fundamental causes of inflation by introducing phrases such as monetary base-control.

### No magic in monetary control, minister says

By Our Financial

Correspondent

There is no magic mechanism which will enable the Government to achieve monetary control either simply or painlessly, Mr Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, told a City audience last night.

He added that the Government, having committed itself to monetary control, would use all the instruments at its disposal to achieve its goals.

Methods of improving the present monetary control system were constantly reviewed by the Bank of England and the Treasury, he said. However,

new methods of control would not automatically achieve the desired end without the risk of high interest rates.

Mr Lawson emphasized the importance of medium-term control. Month-to-month variations in the money supply could indicate a change in trend, but the effect of money supply on inflation did not depend on these figures. Both the Government and its objectives could survive short periods of uncomfortable figures.

The need to curb Government borrowing and achieve the correct balance between fiscal and monetary policy was of vital importance if medium-

term monetary control was to be achieved. The Government was seeking further public expenditure savings to ensure this.

A precise date for the publication of the Government's consultative document on possible methods of improving the present system of monetary control has yet to be announced, but the document seems likely to appear during the first half of February. A key element in any modifications to the present system will be the extent to which the authorities are prepared to exert control over interest rates.

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### £30m development programme will increase container traffic

### Felixstowe set to become Britain's main port

The east coast port of Felixstowe is poised to overtake London and Liverpool as Britain's biggest container port within two years following a new £30m development programme announced by the parent European Ferries group yesterday.

Some £27m will be spent on two new deepwater container berths that will double Felixstowe's container capacity from about 220,000 to 450,000 a year. An associated £3.5m dredging project by Harwich Harbour Board, underwritten by Felixstowe, will increase water depth from 32 to 39 feet allowing the port for the first time to handle third generation container ships of 40,000-ton-plus.

London currently handles

about 300,000 boxes a year and could in theory handle nearly 400,000. The difference is that whereas London is struggling to keep and attract business, Felixstowe already has a waiting list of new and existing customers wanting another 200,000 boxes specifically through Felixstowe.

Mr Keith Wickenden, European Ferries chairman, put the port's success down primarily to its excellent labour relations which had been a feature at Felixstowe ever since the port was founded by that "legend of the industry", Mr Gordon Parker, in the early 1950s.

His sentiment was echoed at yesterday's press briefing in London by Felixstowe's senior ship steward, Mr Ted Throver who said: "We have a local

resident management team that can settle problems within minutes. We don't have to go off to some far-flung ivory towers and that counts for a lot."

Of the £27m to be spent £11.7m will be advanced by Finance for Shipping, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Finance for Industry; £5.5 by an issue of 9.5 per cent cumulative redeemable preference stock, 1984, and the remainder will be raised jointly by the Port of Felixstowe and Orient Overseas Container Holdings (C. Y. Tung Group of Hongkong) who will be operating one of the two new berths.

The money is being raised this way, Mr Wickenden said, because during the prolonged fight with the State-owned

British Transport Docks Board to take over Felixstowe in 1976, European Ferries gave an undertaking that it would do everything to keep Felixstowe a separate and independent entity within the group.

The Docks Board, he mischievously declared, would be welcome to become shareholders in Felixstowe through the new issue; it would make for an interesting annual general meeting.

The new berths are expected to start operating in November, and services to the Far East, India, Sri Lanka, and South America are expected to be among the new traffics generated.

Michael Bailey



Mr Keith Wickenden: Labour relations secretary of success.

### Stock markets

FT Ind 459.8, up 9.0  
FT GIBS 68.53, up 0.20

### Sterling

\$2.2855, up 75 pts  
Index 71.9, up 0.3

### Dollar

Index 84.7, unchanged

### Gold

\$835 an ounce, up \$75

### 3-month money

Inter-bank 16½ to 17½  
Euro-£ 14½ to 14½

### IN BRIEF

### Police asked to check insurance syndicates

City of London police have been asked to investigate insurance business involving three Lloyd's underwriting syndicates which were suspended last summer.

Inquiries will centre on discrepancies discovered in documents purported to have been issued by syndicates, now headed by Additional Underwriting Agencies, a company specially set up by the committee of Lloyd's. These documents were issued before 'AUA' took over the management.

A statement from Lloyd's yesterday said the call to the police had gone out jointly from AUA and Furness Houder, the insurance broking arm of Furness Withy.

The investigations were made "in line with the powers issued on behalf of the syndicates and purportedly signed by a former employee of Furness Houder International which it is believed were not so signed", the statement said.

### Swiss deficit

Switzerland's trade deficit rose to 4,710m francs (about £1,327m) in 1979 from \$20m in 1978 according to the Federal Customs Office. This is a leap of 4,190m francs in a single year.

For the whole of last year imports rose sharply to 4,873m francs from 4,230m in 1978, while exports rose to 4,402m francs from 4,178m.

### Heavy buying

Investment once again bought strongly on the London Exchange yesterday. There were virtually no sellers. The FT index rose 9.0 to 459.8. The FT Gold Mines index went forward 21.4 to 360.4.

### Treasury post filled

A key Treasury post left vacant after last week's high level reshuffle has now been filled. Mr Andrew Britton, 39-year-old government economist, is to replace Mr Peter Middleton as an Under Secretary with responsibility for domestic and overseas monetary affairs.

### Marathon strikes oil

Marathon Oil, an independent United States-owned group has found oil in the North Sea on block 16.3A near the median line with Norwegian waters. Further tests are to be completed to establish the size of the find.

### Meccano pact

Meccano management and unions have agreed to cooperate in a bid to save the 940 jobs at the firm's Liverpool factory. A joint working party will be set up.

### Carter bond tranche

Another tranche of Carter bonds, which constituted an integral part of the Volcker package last October to support the dollar, has been announced in West Germany. The amount to be raised is again expected to be DM2,000m (about £518m) to be split between 2½ and 3½ year bonds.

### Small Wall St gain

A last minute flurry of buying on the New York Stock Exchange boosted the Dow Jones industrial average to a gain of three points. Against the SDR the dollar stood at 1.32090. The pound sterling was 0.579291.

### PRICE CHANGES

Rises		Falls	
Anglo Amer Ind	60p to 870p	Dale Elec	6p to 118p
Autodromic	1p to 8p	Ferranti	18p to 454p
East Delta	55c to 145c	Howard & Wynd	10p to 3p
Elzburg Gold	65c to 695c	Massey-Ferg	10p to 445p
Grotrivcl	85c to 820c	Nat Carbs	7p to 133p
		Nelson David	1p to 121p
		Neeson	5p to 185p
		Wholesale Fit	15p to 445p
		Yarrow	5p to 328p
		Marievale	45c to 420c
		Pennam Grp	6p to 38p
		SA Land	100c to 875c
		Venesport	12c to 817c
		W Rand Cons	70c to 725c

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

# Fuel bills

## Rising cost of keeping the home warm

Nothing starts off the short winter days quite as chillingly as the steady stream of announcements of domestic fuel price increases.

Coal went up by 10 per cent last November and gas will be 27 per cent more by October. Electricity is likely to go up by 17 per cent in April and heating oil continues its steep rise.

And there is more to follow. Coal will go up again when that industry's pay demands are settled. That will affect the price of electricity and that will affect the price of gas—and so on.

Those already with central heating may well have thought of changing their system, but changing any system is expensive. Solid fuel room heaters, a fashionable option, for example, cost more than £100 each.

The effective saving can be wiped out by the cost of installation—and any subsequent increase in the price of the new fuel.

The young couple putting in a system for the first time, however, do have a clear choice and there is little room for argument over which fuel is the cheapest. At present prices it is gas, followed by coal, electricity and oil—in that order.

The Consumers' Association last year produced some useful guidelines for calculating the cost of providing year-round heating and hot water for a three-bedroom semi-detached house. They estimated that such a property would need the equivalent of 14,000 kWh of useful heat in a year, but—and this is most important—their typical house had effective loft insulation and was draught-proofed. This again can add to the initial costs.

More to the point, some of their figures have already been overtaken by price increases—particularly in coal and oil. A tonne of solid fuel costs more than £80, depending on where in the country you are, and the house will need three tonnes a year.

Heating oil now stands at 13.65p a litre if delivered in a 2,250-litre "drop" (delivery), but more if ordered in smaller quantities. Then there is the present gas/electricity game of leapfrog.

This is the basic problem in estimating heating costs before the bills come in—the prices of the various fuels refuse to stand still.

Given the Government's controversial policy of equalising the fuel prices, that is a situation which will be a source of continuing concern.

HEATING A THREE-BEDROOMED HOUSE			
Fuel*	Cost now	Proposed increases	Annual bill
3 tonnes solid fuel	£78.80 to £98.80 per tonne	Dependent on wage negotiations	£236.40 to £286.40
920 therms gas	24.6p per therm for first 52, then 16.5p	17 per cent April 1980 to £200, 1.10 per cent October	£190 to £200
18,000 units electricity	1.2p per unit off-peak, 3.37p peak	Possible 17 per cent rise April	£250 to £330
2,650 litres oil	13.65p per litre for 2,250-litre delivery	In pipeline	£360-plus depending on quantity ordered

\* Average consumption per year.

## Granny bonds

### How much are they worth?

Many readers have written to ask us to publish the up-to-date value of their index-linked Retirement Income National Savings Certificates. For reasons of space we are not publishing the individual values for £10 and £500 units for each of the 45

VALUE OF YOUR RETIREMENT CERTIFICATES IN FEBRUARY							
Month of purchase	£10 Certificate	£500 Certificate	Month of purchase	£10 Certificate	£500 Certificate	Month of purchase	£10 Certificate
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Aug 1975	17.45	873.09	Nov 1976	14.91	745.33	Feb 1978	12.71
Nov 1975	17.04	851.98	Feb 1977	14.25	712.50	May 1978	12.64
Feb 1976	16.40	819.85	May 1977	13.82	680.16	Aug 1978	12.14
May 1976	15.80	794.82	Aug 1977	13.04	651.98	Nov 1978	11.72
Aug 1976	15.35	767.31	Nov 1977	12.89	644.59	Feb 1979	11.72

My sister's husband has been ailing for some time but he refuses to make a will. They have no children, but he has two brothers. He assures her that all his assets, including the house, will be left to her. Is this correct? If not, can you suggest any steps she might take to secure her financial situation in the event of his death. (G. N. Swansea.)

If he dies without leaving a will, his wife will automatically get all the household furniture and effects, savings or any collections (no matter how valuable), as well as the car and the boat (if he has one) provided they are not items connected with his business.

As there are no children, his wife will also be entitled to a basic minimum legacy of £5,000 on his death. In addition, she will receive one-half of the remainder of his assets. If both his parents are dead, the remaining half will be shared by his brothers. (If the latter die before him and there are no nephews or nieces, she will be entitled to everything.)

In order to diminish his brothers' half-share of the residue, she should persuade her husband to transfer into her name as many assets as possible. Even if he is not prepared to transfer the house into her name, she could reasonably ask him to put it into their joint names.

This may be complicated if there is a mortgage as it will require the consent of the building society and stamp duty will have to be paid and also solicitor's fees. However, once the house is owned jointly, it will become hers absolutely on his death and his half share will not go to his relatives.

Should he be unwilling to transfer assets to her during his lifetime, an answer is to persuade him to invest as much as possible in items like furniture, antiques, Persian carpets and paintings. She will be able to turn them back into cash when he dies, by which time they will probably have appreciated in value anyhow.

I should be obliged if you could give me some advice on insurance on the life of my wife. She is 38 and we have a son of 14 who is in boarding school. There is at present little or no insurance on her life, though a fair amount on mine. As I am eight years older than she is, I should normally expect to predecease her, so term insurance would seem to be superfluous (or would it? since in the event of her death the main problem would be in connection with looking after our children—I could expect to continue earning my living as before. That leaves whole life and/or endowment and possibly an income benefit. As endow-

## If husband dies without making a will

This specialist readers' service has been compiled with the help of Eric Brunet, John Drummond, Vera Di Palma and Ronald Irving

ment insurance is the most expensive, even though it guarantees a return and, as I do not really wish to take on additional heavy monthly commitments, the choice would seem to lie between whole life and term assurance, considered purely as protection, with an income benefit added, perhaps. Among the companies I would have in mind for quotations are Standard Life, London Life and Equitable. Any comments you might have on these, and additional companies you might recommend for quotations, would be welcome. (B.D. Belgium.)

Your final paragraph appears to sum up the situation. You could say that term assurance (and/or income benefits) provide for premature death and whole life assurance provides for death in the normal course of events although it will also pay out in the event of premature death. Whole life assurance, as you know, is much more expensive than term assurance for somebody of your wife's age.

Is your main concern the extra cost of looking after your children in the event of premature death of your wife? If so, it could be sensible to concentrate on term assurance and/or income benefits—to run until such time as that extra cost would no longer be a burden. For a given premium, you would buy much less protection with a whole life policy, and, presumably, your children would not really need a cash sum at the death of your wife in, say, her seventies, eighties or nineties.

If you decide on term assurance, consult a good insurance broker—who might suggest Phoenix or Commercial Union (for a fairly large policy), but you should also check with the two non-commission offices you mention—Life and Equitable Life. Standard Life would certainly be an office to consider for profit-sharing whole life assurance, but not necessarily for term assurance.

It is important to remember that the Retail Price Index figure of 239.4 will only apply to encashments in February. Repayments before that are at the previous month's level of 237.7. (The full list is displayed in your local Post Office.)

Month of purchase	£10 Certificate	£500 Certificate	Month of purchase	£10 Certificate	£500 Certificate
Aug 1975	17.45	873.09	Nov 1976	14.91	745.33
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Aug 1976	15.35	767.31	Nov 1977	12.89	644.59

My father is somewhat advanced in years and has been advised to have a minor operation. He is now living with us and we are concerned to know whether there are any dangers in the particular operation. We have in mind the case of a small boy, whose compensation was cancelled by the Appeal Court recently. Is an NHS patient entitled to know what risks are involved before consenting to surgery, or must he take everything on trust? (P. W. Weymouth.)

The decision you refer to is based on the simple proposition of the law of negligence that a professional person, eg a doctor, is bound to exercise the care and skill generally shown by persons in that profession. He is not expected to act always with the highest degree of expertise and skill.

Thus, the surgeon is not negligent if he operates with normal competence, even though some mishap occurs.

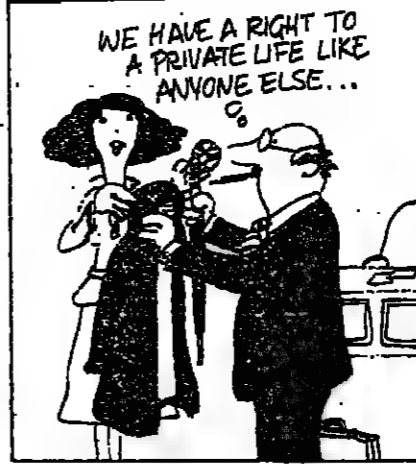
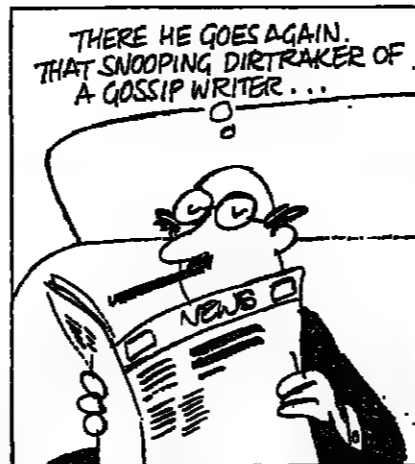
The question of a patient's right to information before submitting to an operation is not clearly laid down in English law. In a Canadian case the patient complained that he would never have agreed to the operation had the surgeon advised him of the risks involved—ie, 10 per cent risk of dismemberment and 4 per cent risk of death. The Canadian judge took the view that the operation had been conducted without the patient's true consent in law and awarded compensation.

Normally, a patient simply consents to the operation and any necessary additional procedures. But, if he insists on knowing the risks involved, the surgeon might be criticised for failing to give precise assessment. On the other hand, many people will prefer to base their consent on the surgeon's advice, without a detailed examination of the risks, which may, in practice, be remote.

My son, who is following me into medicine, is living in a "bed-sitter", but is having difficulty in arranging insurance cover for his possessions. Have you any suggestions? (D. P. Cardiff.)

A special scheme is arranged with a leading insurer by brokers E. Harrison, of Witney. It covers personal property against fire and theft for up to £1,000, subject to an excess of £5 and various exclusions—such as money, contact lenses and theft from an unattended motor vehicle. Individual items of value may be covered on "all risks" terms.

## HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



## Grouse

Should insurance companies be allowed to exchange information about their clients without giving the customers any opportunity to know what is being said about them?

A retired Bank of England official who had insured his house with the same company for twelve years had a burst pipe and consequent flooding last winter. His claim, the first he had ever made under the policy, was eventually settled, but when the policy next came up for renewal the company advised him that they were not willing to provide further cover.

They refused to tell him why, but said they would tell another insurance company if they asked. Since it is standard practice for insurance companies to ask if people have been refused cover or had special conditions attached to their policy, and indeed void the cover if the policyholder fails to disclose this information—it is worrisome to find that people can be refused without knowing the reason why.

The insurance companies are, of course, within their rights to refuse to renew what is only an annual contract and, in the field of motor insurance for instance, they must be able to exchange information.

But why should someone whose only apparent fault is to have had the temerity to make his first claim on his house insurance policy have fewer rights than, for example, someone who has been refused credit because of a record of bad debt?

People seeking credit have the right to know what agency has supplied any information against them, to see what is in their files and to get it amended if it is incorrect—or attach their own notes of explanation.

Those who want insurance cover should have no less a right to know what is being said about them is correct.

## Credit cards

### Still two classes of card-holder

Holders of certain types of credit card were given an important new legal right on July 1, 1977, under the Consumer Credit Act, which is particularly relevant where a holder uses his credit card to buy goods which prove to be defective. The card-holder now has the right to bring a claim against the credit card company as well as, or instead of, the supplier of the goods. He cannot, of course, recover his money twice over.

There are two distinct advantages here for the card-holder. First, if the supplier has disappeared, gone out of business or become bankrupt, he can still secure a remedy from the credit card company. Secondly, the card-holder may not yet have paid the credit card company for the goods in question and can easily enforce his claim simply by withholding payment. This puts the onus on the credit

card company, if it disputes the claim, to initiate proceedings against the card-holder.

There are three restrictions on this new right. First, it applies only to credit cards (such as Barclaycard and Access) which allow extended credit and not to those (such as American Express and Diners Club) which require each account to be settled in a single repayment. Secondly, it does not apply where the claim relates to a single item whose cash price is £30 or less.

So if a new £20 kettle explodes the first time he uses it, the card-holder will have no claim against the credit card company but only against the seller (and, possibly, against the manufacturer).

The third restriction is that the new right does not apply to a card-holder who first made his credit card agreement before July 1, 1977, even if he

has had a renewal card since that date. There are many Access and Barclaycard holders who obviously do not benefit from the new right.

Nevertheless, after discussion between them and the Office of Fair Trading, both Barclaycard and Access have agreed voluntarily to accept towards their pre-July 1977 card-holders a liability similar to that owed to their more recent card-holders.

But they have imposed a limit on that voluntarily accepted liability which is that the credit card company's liability will not exceed the amount of credit advanced. So there are still two classes of Access and Barclaycard holders.

Suppose one of these credit cards is used by the holder to buy a £100 cooker which on the first occasion he uses it blows up, causing him extensive personal injuries. He will have a claim against the seller for a

large amount of compensation, perhaps many thousands of pounds. If he is a recent card-holder, he will be able to bring that claim against the credit card company.

If, on the other hand, he first made his credit card agreement before July 1, 1977, his claim against the credit card company is restricted to £100.

This is a pity. When the claim is large, the right to make it against the credit card company is particularly important. The seller may be in a small business, of limited means and with low or inadequate insurance cover.

A credit card-holder whose credit card agreement pre-dates July 1, 1977, might sensibly consider paying off the outstanding debt and terminating that agreement and then applying for a new one.

Paul Dobson

## Gold fever in Hatton Garden



A dealer's assistant holding a sign saying "We pay cash for your gold and silver" as people wanting to sell to jewellers queue up in Hatton Garden yesterday.

The gold and silver jamboree in London's Hatton Garden began to show some signs of frenzy yesterday as police moved in to control the crowds of people wanting to dispose of their sometimes modest, sometimes extensive, collections of precious metal.

Queues, three and four deep on the pavement, grew by the minute outside bullion dealers and jewellers and those who waited swapped stories about the bargains to be had from mere rummaging in a family chest.

By lunchtime, just before the price of gold was fixed at \$335 an ounce, the crowds knew that they would get a better deal than those who had sold their items earlier in the morning and, possibly, a better one than the person 10 paces ahead.

Hatton Garden, one of the

world's largest diamond centres, was this time hopelessly thrall with gold and silver. An assistant at Johnson and Matthey, the bullion dealers, said that when she arrived for work, it looked like the first day of a sale at Harrods.

The group he was with pointed out that silver had been £11 an ounce that morning; now it was £17 an ounce and clearly it was worth waiting. A young woman, perhaps grasping the unseemly spectacle of it all, suggested that all that glitters was not gold and was met by the response that if it was not gold then, it was almost certainly silver.

Mr Charles Pallthorpe cheerfully admitted that he had travelled by train that morning from Somerset to sell "a few scraps to keep me going", some of it silver bought many years ago as an investment. He

added: "I would never sell decent work of art."

A young woman had come to sell a small piece of gold for her mother, and had ideas what she would receive in return.

Mr Peter Dodd, from Hatton Court, London, intended to buy silver for £20 an ounce as a personal investment. Explaining that he would buy reasonable amounts, he said: "Gold is too volatile, but silver is much more steady. I will do it again at some stage as a real profit."

A spokesman for Johnson & Matthey said that they were too busy to talk about the extent of their over-the-counter gold and silver trade. Hatton Garden's jewellers, in general had little time for talk.

Craig Seaton

## Investor's week

### Shades of 1975 haunt the market

Fund managers in our big unit trusts and insurance companies are like generals. They fight today's battles by avoiding yesterday's mistakes. But this is hazardous: they run the risk of merely making new mistakes to replace the old.

The mistake they are putting right is the one they made in 1974-75 when the FT index rose vertically from 146 to nearly 300 in six weeks. Shares had suffered a calamitous decline, men worried lest private industry would expire and sensible managers put their cash into the money market.

When the turn-about came, the same people found that they were too big to deal in quantity. They were effectively locked out of the market.

Today they are making the opposite mistake. Terrified of being, like love, locked out, they probably find themselves locked into shares that will have them wringing their hands rather than clapping them.

It would be curmudgeonly not to record that the FT index at 459.8 is as many as 24.6 points up on the week, an even faster rate of advance than the 21.3 of the week before and 53 points or 13 per cent ahead of the beginning of January.

It was a week when everything in the market seemed as feverishly exciting as in boom days gone by. Associated Newspapers showed us what oil can

do for newspaper groups by doubling its profits to almost £40m in the year to last September. To everyone's delight SGB hoisted its profits from £10.7m to £14.5m in the same months and Trust Houses Forte pleased everyone by going ahead 23 per cent to £68.2m.

It was left to a market newcomer, Kitchen Queen, to let its backers down by failing to meet its forecasts and taking its leave of the chairman. Indeed, only Gesteamer indicated the shape of things to come. Dear sterling pulled down profits by £7m to £19m.

But, on the day that Gesteamer came out, Grand Metropolitan Hotels steadied nerves with word of an effective 20 per cent increase in profits to £136m. It was also the week when

Turner and Newall discovered that its Rhodesian interests had three small gold mines and assets of £92m against a pre-UDI £6.3m; when Decca at last officially opened bid talks with would-be predator Racal; and when a bid triangle of Lonrho, House of Fraser and Debenhams was, or possibly was not being formed.

It was indeed like old times, but nothing stays the same in investment, as in life. The old times have not returned. First, the Government is not getting on top of inflation; the rate of increase in average earnings has picked up quickly in recent months. In the year to November the rise was 19.2 per cent, against 17 per cent the month before.

They announced two new stocks, one of £800m and other of £1,000m, which together mean a sizable drop in the gilt-edged market funds.

On March 25 we have a Budget. Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor, will doubtless set to show that the economy coming right. By then, he hopes, the steel strike will well in the past. Maybe; may not.

Either way, Sir Geoffrey may feel obliged to apply to purchase curbs on brake cars and dearer VAT to curb imports. "Them as is keen get f... in previous," runs the old adage. But in the stock market this is one occasion for making slowly.

Second, it is not yet clear that bank lending is coming under control.

Third, the Government is no cause to congratulate itself on the trade deficit. Departure of Trade figures released earlier this week indicated 1979 deficit of £2,420m on a balance of trade, against a 1978 forecast of only £750. So much for North Sea oil.

Yesterday afternoon authorities signalled to the edged market that most restraint was still the order of the day. They also indicated that interest rates are meant to stay high for some weeks.

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Peter Wainwright

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Lasmo stake sold for £12.4m

By Philip Robinson  
National Carboising, the Mansfield-based "Recco" fuels group headed by entrepreneur Mr Graham Ferguson Lacey, sold its entire London and Scottish Marine Oil (LASMO) stake institutions yesterday for £12.4m.

The placing, completed by Cazenove in 30 minutes around lunchtime, was at a 20p discount to the market price of 395p and fired immediate speculation that National Carboising would use the cash to bid for Bermuda-based Weeks Petroleum, of which it holds 24.8 per cent.

Mr Lacey said: "I would make no comment on that. But I expect an announcement which will relate to Weeks early next month. We now have the opportunity of taking effective control of an energy company rather than being an energy-related investment group. We do have a company in mind."

Cash from the LASMO deal will be used to pay off National Carboising debts and will give the group about £8m, which Mr Lacey says will be placed on deposit at 16 1/2 per cent.

The sale leaves the group cash-rich, with about £500,000 of quoted reserves, a Tungsten Mine, as yet not fully developed in Cumbria, and the stake in Weeks.

Mr Lacey puts net assets per share at 175p, of which the present strength of Weeks' share price accounts for between 90p and 100p. National Carboising shares dropped 9p to 133p after the deal.

Weeks Petroleum has been viewed with some caution in the City. Weeks' main source of revenue comes from royalties from oil in the Australian Bass Strait. At present, the Australian oil price at producer-level is less than half the world spot price.

But Weeks is also drilling in the South China Sea. A National Carboising director, Mr G. J. Ward, has acquired 500,000 ordinary shares making his holding 200,000 shares.

Wall Street

New York, Jan 18.—The stock market began to pull back in scope trading this morning after holding steady at the opening. First National Bank of Chicago raised its prime rate to 15 1/2 per cent from 15 per cent, bringing it back into line with most of the major banks. Bankers Trust and Citibank remain at 15 per cent.

The Dow Jones Industrial average slipped a fraction while advances and declines were about equal.

Du Pont eased 1/4 to 41, Texas Instruments 1/2 to 57.

Gold tops \$800

New York, Jan 17.—Gold prices rose sharply after an uneasy start. United States Commodity Futures and Exchange Commission (CFTC) buy orders are flooding the trading floor, pushing gold up to \$800.00, an unprecedented high.

The CFTC's buy orders, which began on Jan 16, pushed gold up from \$795.00 to \$800.00. The CFTC's buy orders, which began on Jan 16, pushed gold up from \$795.00 to \$800.00. The CFTC's buy orders, which began on Jan 16, pushed gold up from \$795.00 to \$800.00.

Commodities

COPPER was very firm in afternoon. Three months' futures, 120.00-120.50. Cash, 120.00-120.50. Tin, 120.00-120.50. Zinc, 120.00-120.50. Lead, 120.00-120.50. Nickel, 120.00-120.50. Aluminum, 120.00-120.50.

Discount market

The shortage which has prevailed all the week in the money market persisted yesterday and again the authorities gave a large amount of help to enable the market to balance its books. The Bank of England bought a small amount of Treasury bills and a small amount of local authority bills, some of the latter for resale at a future date, and also a small amount of eligible bills all of which were for resale at a future date. In addition, the Bank lent a small amount to six or seven houses at MLR until Monday.

The rate for secured money remained at 10 per cent during most of the day apart from a one hour period when it fell to 9 1/2 per cent. The close was at 17 per cent.

All the discount factors were against the market including a moderate net take-up of Treasury bills, a small surplus of Revenue payments.

Money Market Rates

Bank of England Money Rate 17%	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months
1 month	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
3 months	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
6 months	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
12 months	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

Foreign exchange report

The pound spent a quiet day on the foreign exchange market yesterday closing at 2.2855 against the dollar, while its current basket average rose from 71.5 to 71.5. No real pressures were noted, with most centres keeping fresh commitments to a minimum ahead of the weekend. Sterling was aided in trade by anticipated demand from overseas investors in connection with the new £1,000 Government "age" stamp, through the currency to hold its "high" of 2.2855.

Sterling Spot and Forward

Spot	Forward
1 month	1 month
3 months	3 months
6 months	6 months
12 months	12 months

Bank Base Rates

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	17%
Barclays Bank	17%
BCCI Bank	17%
Consolidated City	17%
C. Hoare & Co.	17%
Lloyds Bank	17%
London Mercantile	17%
Midland Bank	17%
Westminster	17%
Roseminster	17%
TSE	17%
Williams & Glyn's	17%

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
99 73 Airsprung Group	73	-	6.7	9.2	4.3
50 38 Armistead & Rhodes	40	+1	3.8	9.5	2.6
225 185 Bardonia Hill	225	-	13.8	6.1	6.6
101 63 Deborah Ord	93	-	5.0	5.4	10.2
353 140 Deborah 171% CULS	353	-	17.0	8.0	5.7
92 38 Frank & Co.	92	-	7.9	8.0	5.7
129 100 Frederick Parker	108	-	12.8	11.9	8.4
156 105 George Blair	105	-	16.5	15.7	4.0
61 45 Jackson Group	60	+1	5.2	8.7	3.5
115 115 James Burroughs	116	-	7.2	6.2	10.0
300 242 Robert Jenkins	250	+3	31.3	12.5	9.0
232 175 Torday Limited	223	-	14.3	6.4	5.8
34 162 Twinklack Ord	23	+3	0.8	3.7	4.4
80 70 Twinklack 12% ULS	76	-	12.0	15.8	-
56 23 Unilock Holdings	56	+1	2.6	4.6	11.9
84 42 Walter Alexander	81	-	4.4	5.4	5.4
190 136 W. S. Yates	185	-	11.5	6.2	7.2

\* Accounts prepared under provision of SSAP15.

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Recent Issues

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
99 73 Airsprung Group	73	-	6.7	9.2	4.3
50 38 Armistead & Rhodes	40	+1	3.8	9.5	2.6
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EMS European Currency Rates

Country	Rate
Germany	1.36
France	1.36
Italy	1.36
Netherlands	1.36
Belgium	1.36
Spain	1.36
Portugal	1.36
Greece	1.36
Ireland	1.36
United Kingdom	1.36

Dollar Spot Rates

Country	Rate
Germany	1.36
France	1.36
Italy	1.36
Netherlands	1.36
Belgium	1.36
Spain	1.36
Portugal	1.36
Greece	1.36
Ireland	1.36
United Kingdom	1.36

Gold

Country	Rate
Germany	1.36
France	1.36
Italy	1.36
Netherlands	1.36
Belgium	1.36
Spain	1.36
Portugal	1.36
Greece	1.36
Ireland	1.36
United Kingdom	1.36

Euro-Deposits

Country	Rate
Germany	1.36
France	1.36
Italy	1.36
Netherlands	1.36
Belgium	1.36
Spain	1.36
Portugal	1.36
Greece	1.36
Ireland	1.36
United Kingdom	1.36

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
99 73 Airsprung Group	73	-	6.7	9.2	4.3
50 38 Armistead & Rhodes	40	+1	3.8	9.5	2.6
225 185 Bardonia Hill	225	-	13.8	6.1	6.6
101 63 Deborah Ord	93	-	5.0	5.4	10.2
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84 42 Walter Alexander	81	-	4.4	5.4	5.4
190 136 W. S. Yates	185	-	11.5	6.2	7.2

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**§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous day**

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18" x 12"	48"	£18.95
18" x 12"	54"	£20.95
18" x 12"	60"	£22.95
18" x 12"	66"	£24.95
18" x 12"	72"	£26.95
18" x 12"	78"	£28.95
18" x 12"	84"	£30.95
18" x 12"	90"	£32.95
18" x 12"	96"	£34.95
18" x 12"	102"	£36.95
18" x 12"	108"	£38.95
18" x 12"	114"	£40.95
18" x 12"	120"	£42.95
18" x 12"	126"	£44.95
18" x 12"	132"	£46.95
18" x 12"	138"	£48.95
18" x 12"	144"	£50.95
18" x 12"	150"	£52.95
18" x 12"	156"	£54.95
18" x 12"	162"	£56.95
18" x 12"	168"	£58.95
18" x 12"	174"	£60.95
18" x 12"	180"	£62.95
18" x 12"	186"	£64.95
18" x 12"	192"	£66.95
18" x 12"	198"	£68.95
18" x 12"	204"	£70.95
18" x 12"	210"	£72.95
18" x 12"	216"	£74.95
18" x 12"	222"	£76.95
18" x 12"	228"	£78.95
18" x 12"	234"	£80.95
18" x 12"	240"	£82.95
18" x 12"	246"	£84.95
18" x 12"	252"	£86.95
18" x 12"	258"	£88.95
18" x 12"	264"	£90.95
18" x 12"	270"	£92.95
18" x 12"	276"	£94.95
18" x 12"	282"	£96.95
18" x 12"	288"	£98.95
18" x 12"	294"	£100.95
18" x 12"	300"	£102.95
18" x 12"	306"	£104.95
18" x 12"	312"	£106.95
18" x 12"	318"	£108.95
18" x 12"	324"	£110.95
18" x 12"	330"	£112.95
18" x 12"	336"	£114.95
18" x 12"	342"	£116.95
18" x 12"	348"	£118.95
18" x 12"	354"	£120.95
18" x 12"	360"	£122.95
18" x 12"	366"	£124.95
18" x 12"	372"	£126.95
18" x 12"	378"	£128.95
18" x 12"	384"	£130.95
18" x 12"	390"	£132.95
18" x 12"	396"	£134.95
18" x 12"	402"	£136.95
18" x 12"	408"	£138.95
18" x 12"	414"	£140.95
18" x 12"	420"	£142.95
18" x 12"	426"	£144.95
18" x 12"	432"	£146.95
18" x 12"	438"	£148.95
18" x 12"	444"	£150.95
18" x 12"	450"	£152.95
18" x 12"	456"	£154.95
18" x 12"	462"	£156.95
18" x 12"	468"	£158.95
18" x 12"	474"	£160.95
18" x 12"	480"	£162.95
18" x 12"	486"	£164.95
18" x 12"	492"	£166.95
18" x 12"	498"	£168.95
18" x 12"	504"	£170.95
18" x 12"	510"	£172.95
18" x 12"	516"	£174.95
18" x 12"	522"	£176.95
18" x 12"	528"	£178.95
18" x 12"	534"	£180.95
18" x 12"	540"	£182.95
18" x 12"	546"	£184.95
18" x 12"	552"	£186.95
18" x 12"	558"	£188.95
18" x 12"	564"	£190.95
18" x 12"	570"	£192.95
18" x 12"	576"	£194.95
18" x 12"	582"	£196.95
18" x 12"	588"	£198.95
18" x 12"	594"	£200.95
18" x 12"	600"	£202.95
18" x 12"	606"	£204.95
18" x 12"	612"	£206.95
18" x 12"	618"	£208.95
18" x 12"	624"	£210.95
18" x 12"	630"	£212.95
18" x 12"	636"	£214.95
18" x 12"	642"	£216.95
18" x 12"	648"	£218.95
18" x 12"	654"	£220.95
18" x 12"	660"	£222.95
18" x 12"	666"	£224.95
18" x 12"	672"	£226.95
18" x 12"	678"	£228.95
18" x 12"	684"	£230.95
18" x 12"	690"	£232.95
18" x 12"	696"	£234.95
18" x 12"	702"	£236.95
18" x 12"	708"	£238.95
18" x 12"	714"	£240.95
18" x 12"	720"	£242.95
18" x 12"	726"	£244.95
18" x 12"	732"	£246.95
18" x 12"	738"	£248.95
18" x 12"	744"	£250.95
18" x 12"	750"	£252.95
18" x 12"	756"	£254.95
18" x 12"	762"	£256.95
18" x 12"	768"	£258.95
18" x 12"	774"	£260.95
18" x 12"	780"	£262.95
18" x 12"	786"	£264.95
18" x 12"	792"	£266.95
18" x 12"	798"	£268.95
18" x 12"	804"	£270.95
18" x 12"	810"	£272.95
18" x 12"	816"	£274.95
18" x 12"	822"	£276.95
18" x 12"	828"	£278.95
18" x 12"	834"	£280.95
18" x 12"	840"	£282.95
18" x 12"	846"	£284.95
18" x 12"	852"	£286.95
18" x 12"	858"	£288.95
18" x 12"	864"	£290.95
18" x 12"	870"	£292.95
18" x 12"	876"	£294.95
18" x 12"	882"	£296.95
18" x 12"	888"	£298.95
18" x 12"	894"	£300.95
18" x 12"	900"	£302.95
18" x 12"	906"	£304.95
18" x 12"	912"	£306.95
18" x 12"	918"	£308.95
18" x 12"	924"	£310.95
18" x 12"	930"	£312.95
18" x 12"	936"	£314.95
18" x 12"	942"	£316.95
18" x 12"	948"	£318.95
18" x 12"	954"	£320.95
18" x 12"	960"	£322.95
18" x 12"	966"	£324.95
18" x 12"	972"	£326.95
18" x 12"	978"	£328.95
18" x 12"	984"	£330.95
18" x 12"	990"	£332.95
18" x 12"	996"	£334.95
18" x 12"	1002"	£336.95
18" x 12"	1008"	£338.95
18" x 12"	1014"	£340.95
18" x 12"	1020"	£342.95
18" x 12"	1026"	£344.95
18" x 12"	1032"	£346.95
18" x 12"	1038"	£348.95
18" x 12"	1044"	£350.95
18" x 12"	1050"	£352.95
18" x 12"	1056"	£354.95
18" x 12"	1062"	£356.95
18" x 12"	1068"	£358.95
18" x 12"	1074"	£360.95
18" x 12"	1080"	£362.95
18" x 12"	1086"	£364.95
18" x 12"	1092"	£366.95
18" x 12"	1098"	£368.95
18" x 12"	1104"	£370.95
18" x 12"	1110"	£372.95
18" x 12"	1116"	£374.95
18" x 12"	1122"	£376.95
18" x 12"	1128"	£378.95
18" x 12"	1134"	£380.95
18" x 12"	1140"	£382.95
18" x 12"	1146"	£384.95
18" x 12"	1152"	£386.95
18" x 12"	1158"	£388.95
18" x 12"	1164"	£390.95
18" x 12"	1170"	£392.95
18" x 12"	1176"	£394.95
18" x 12"	1182"	£396.95
18" x 12"	1188"	£398.95
18" x 12"	1194"	£400.95
18" x 12"	1200"	£402.95
18" x 12"	1206"	£404.95
18" x 12"	1212"	£406.95
18" x 12"	1218"	£408.95
18" x 12"	1224"	£410.95
18" x 12"	1230"	£412.95
18" x 12"	1236"	£414.95
18" x 12"	1242"	£416.95
18" x 12"	1248"	£418.95
18" x 12"	1254"	£420.95
18" x 12"	1260"	£422.95
18" x 12"	1266"	£424.95
18" x 12"	1272"	£426.95
18" x 12"	1278"	£428.95
18" x 12"	1284"	£430.95
18" x 12"	1290"	£432.95
18" x 12"	1296"	£434.95
18" x 12"	1302"	£436.95
18" x 12"	1308"	£438.95
18" x 12"	1314"	£440.95
18" x 12"	1320"	£442.95
18" x 12"	1326"	£444.95
18" x 12"	1332"	£446.95
18" x 12"	1338"	£448.95
18" x 12"	1344"	£450.95
18" x 12"	1350"	£452.95
18" x 12"	1356"	£454.95
18" x 12"	1362"	£456.95
18" x 12"	1368"	£458.95
18" x 12"	1374"	£460.95
18" x 12"	1380"	£462.95
18" x 12"	1386"	£464.95
18" x 12"	1392"	£466.95
18" x 12"	1398"	£468.95
18" x 12"	1404"	£470.95
18" x 12"	1410"	£472.95
18" x 12"	1416"	£474.95
18" x 12"	1422"	£476.95
18" x 12"	1428"	£478.95
18" x 12"	1434"	£480.95
18" x 12"	1440"	£482.95
18" x 12"	1446"	£484.95
18" x 12"	1452"	£486.95
18" x 12"	1458"	£488.95
18" x 12"	1464"	£490.95
18" x 12"	1470"	£492.95
18" x 12"	1476"	£494.95
18" x 12"	1482"	£496.95
18" x 12"	1488"	£498.95
18" x 12"	1494"	£500.95
18" x 12"	1500"	£502.95
18" x 12"	1506"	£504.95
18" x 12"	1512"	£506.95
18" x 12"	1518"	£508.95
18" x 12"	1524"	£510.95
18" x 12"	1530"	£512.95
18" x 12"	1536"	£514.95
18" x 12"	1542"	£516.95
18" x 12"	1548"	£518.95
18" x 12"	1554"	£520.95
18" x 12"	1560"	£522.95
18" x 12"	1	

